

AMERICAN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1988

HANDGUNNER

67522 T&E

MAMMOTH
.44 MAGNUM*Buff Buster by John French*

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.44 Eagle

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Two models are available; the Deluxe Museum Edition and the Collector Edition are separate, numbered, limited editions of only 500 each. There is a direct relationship between rarity and value, and this low edition limit enhances the investment aspect of ownership.

To increase the historical value, the components in both editions are genuine G.I. Using new, deluxe polished receivers, each rifle is custom finished and assembled by the oldest American firm still making M14s, Federal Ordnance. Each rifle is so well made it comes with a lifetime warranty for the original owner. As a benefit, each rifle fires in semi-automatic only, so anyone who can own a regular hunting rifle can own one.

Both models reflect their special status with mirror polished, 24-Karat Gold plated components. On the Collector Edition, 15 parts receive this special

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The Deluxe Museum Edition is custom built with a "Supreme"-grade American Walnut stock by the respected firm of Reinhart Fajen; it gleams with seven coats of lacquer, hand-rubbed and polished to a museum-quality finish.

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The Collector Edition features a genuine G.I. wooden stock, specially finished in a black, highly-textured presentation-grade finish, symbolizing the black granite Vietnam Veterans Memorial; it complements the mirror polished and blued steel and the 24-Karat Gold plated components. The serial num-

Personalize your M14 with your service branch symbol and/or other special information engraved on the magazine. Marine Corps symbol shown; Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard available.



bers range between 001 and 500, with the prefix "VCE" for "Vietnam-Collector Edition."

Collectors who reserve both models may receive matching serial numbers, while available. Both models are fitted with a deluxe black leather sling and a cloisonne fired enamel medallion proudly displaying the Vietnam Service Medal.

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☐ in full.
☐ Please also send the optional glass and walnut display case for each gun reserved, adding \$225 per case to the final payment selected.
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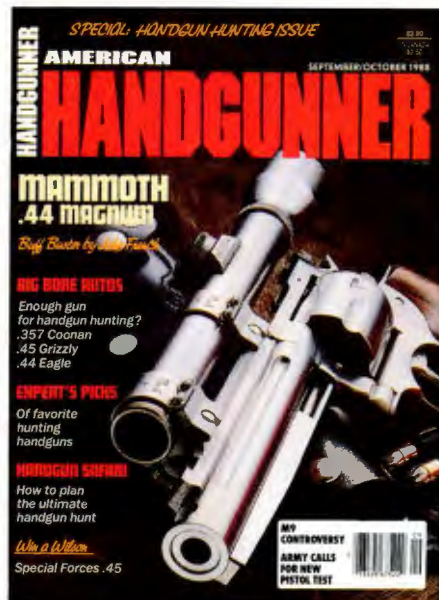
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Cover: Buff Buster, a custom Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum designed by Mickey Fowler. Photo by Ichiro Nagata.

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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 and feature for feature the PACT MKIII gives you more honest "bang for the buck" than any other shooting timer on the market.

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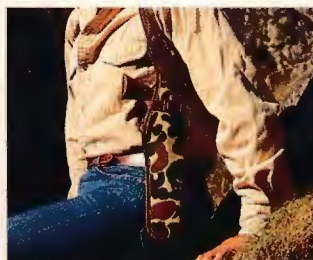


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SPEAK OUT

HK Here To Stay

Editor's Note: In the Industry Insider column of the May/June issue we reported that "An unconfirmed rumor floating around the (SHOT) show floor was that H&K, maker of the squeeze-cocking P-7 semi-automatic pistol, is pulling up stakes and quitting the American market." Dr. Florian Deltgen, president of HK, responds:

I don't know where you pick up your "unconfirmed rumors" about HK pulling out of the USA. HK is here to stay. Next time you wish to speak with somebody in authority, drop off your business card and/or make an appointment. You probably won't find presidents of other companies in their SHOT Show booths all the time, waiting for journalists to pop in. Nor can I afford to do that. In addition, it would appear to me that "unconfirmed" rumors don't belong in a serious publication.

In April of 1987 HK had to increase its prices by a margin of 40% versus 1986. This was due to the continued fall of the U.S. dollar. Not many firearms companies can survive such a price hike. We did. We could because our products are of outstanding quality. Firearms must be reliable, safe and accurate. If a gun is not, it's not worth its money no matter how affordable it may be. A cheap gun can cost you too much: your life. The uncompromising quality that makes HK firearms the optimal combination of reliability, safety and accuracy is appreciated by many people who realize that to protect lives you can only depend on the best there is. These folks pay the money it takes to own an HK gun. There are many of them and that's what keeps us going.

I would really be obliged if you published this letter in the *American Handgunner* to make sure that your readers get the facts straight and hear the truth from the horse's mouth—so to speak.

Dr. Florian Deltgen
President HK

Boilershop Boys Blast Ayoob

I've subscribed to your magazine for about three years and after reading Massad Ayoob's fairytale, I've come to the conclusion that he's definitely fallen off the edge and dragged your magazine with him (4x.44 in May/June 1988).

The boys down at the boilershop and I got a really good laugh out of the article from start to finish.

The chuckles started right off with his claiming the inventory list of the National Guard armory as his own. Over a dozen .44 Magnums alone! The guys began to see

the humor right away wondering how this magazine fantasizer used a .44 Magnum as a "power tool." Kept 'em glued to the bulletin board, I'll tell you!

We all thought he had gone as far as possible when he told of another pulp writer, preposterously named Frank James, who lost part of his trigger finger to crazed farm machinery because he didn't have his trusty .44 Mag on his hip to reflexively blast that cannibalistic four-banger into oblivion! I had tears in my eyes over that one.

And before I could even catch my breath, he related the following situation.

Seems old dead-eye-oob bagged an impala, one of the swiftest animals on earth and noted for his leaping ability, with a single shot, standing, double-action, right through both lungs and spine at over 300 feet through bushes no less! And what did Ayoob say of this miraculous shot? "Damn, two inches low!"

The guffaws kept coming. The caption under the obviously doctored photo said old dead-eye-oob faced "dry, moldy mutton and gruel for supper," so he just *had* to shoot that impala. At least they remembered to take the rope off the animal's neck.

Ayoob must have spent all his money on guns and those designer bullets if the expedition couldn't afford any better provisions that moldy mutton and gruel. He should have shot the guy that bought that crap. He didn't say if he had salad with that impala.

And as the echoes of laughter faded once again, came what I consider the topper.

Ayoob's host, whoever *that* was, needed some "pot-meat for his work crew," (Massad gonna feed us po' boys?). Old dead-eye-oob drug out that .44 again, jumped into his Land Rover at night, flipped on the spotlight and set out on the bunny trail. Got that sucker in "mid-hop" too! He says he shot a rabbit at 135 feet at night, from a moving vehicle, travelling in the opposite direction in which the rabbit was running. I don't know how much "pot-meat" is left on a rabbit after a .44 Magnum is through with it, but me and the guys were rolling on the floor after we got through *that* one.

The article was sprinkled with references to that legendary windbag, Elmer Keith. Ayoob tried to lend credence to his own tales by relating Keith's peyote-induced pipe dream of a 600 yard kill shot of a mule deer with a four-inch handgun. That translates to six football fields for us laymen. Whatever Keith was smoking, he must have left a goodly supply to Ayoob in his will.

Well, I won't worry about seeing this in print as I know you only print the letters you write yourselves. I would, however, hire an editor and at least read that crap

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Tom Campbell in action at the 1986 IPSC National Championships.

from Ayoob before you print it.

I can't speak for the rest of the guys, but as for me, send the rest of the magazines I've paid for, as the ads are pretty good, but don't bother me about renewing my subscription.

I just wonder what kind of BS stories Ayoob would be telling if your rag was a fishing magazine.

Gary Sillett
Pomona, Ks.

The vast majority of the mail received on Massad Ayoob's 4x.44 article was positive, thanking Ayoob for a good read. We are publishing Mr. Sillett's letter not because it's representative but because it's, well, entertaining.

Massad Ayoob replies:

Gary, I expect you have lots of tools at the boilershop. Why does it surprise you that someone who does handguns for a living has a dozen variations of one type of instrument? As for shooting the impala, our party didn't go for a lounge-lizard hunt with room service, instead hunting a remote area where you have to kill to eat. The larder was short because my hunting partner Cameron Hopkins shoots only select trophies and I hunt mostly with a camera. Hence, the expedience of the shot.

The crux of your problem, Gary, seems to be that you feel the 117-yard spineshot on the impala was a fantastic feat. While I was proud of it, it was by no means unique. A year before in the same area, Mickey

Fowler ran a string of some half-dozen animals headshot at over 100 yards with a Redhawk .44 Magnum.

I suspect you and "the boys down at the boilershop" have spent a lot more time talking about handguns than shooting them. A quick trip to a local IHMSA match will show you lots of people with factory-stock Magnums shooting steel rams at 200 yards. You aren't far from the Chapman Academy in Columbia, Mo., where my friend and frequent teaching partner Ray Chapman shows students how to zap a soda can at 100 yards with a pistol—a much harder mark than an impala's spine.

One thing you might be right about is cancelling your subscription. Handgunner is written by and for the committed enthusiast who knows what can be accomplished with a handgun and wants more info in that vein. There's no point in your wasting your money on reading matter that's over your head until you've gotten into handgunning seriously and gained a rough idea of what the technology can do.

Massad Ayoob

Get Another Gun

There are a lot of pictures of shooters shooting with a two handed hold. That may be alright to test a gun, but I can't see any other use for it. I've always been taught to shoot a revolver or pistol one handed with the other hand in a back pocket. I believe the only way to shoot is one handed. Anyone who has to use a two handed hold

better quit shooting and get a club.

Now as to scopes for handguns, when a person has to use a scoped handgun then he better get a rifle.

Now for the holes out in the barrel for reducing recoil and muzzle jump. I can't see the reason to cut up a good gun on account of recoil. I say just get another gun with less recoil.

Everett H. Love
Sandusky, Ohio

Big Matches

I have been shooting pistols since 1979. I have just got into PPC and I'm very interested in IPSC. I would like to know where and when the competitions like Bianchi Cup, The Masters and the Steel Challenge take place. I plan on getting started in more than PPC shooting this summer and hope to go watch some of the best matches. What does it cost to participate in the big matches? Also, I would like to know what I can do to fight gun control.

Gerald Moyer
Boon, Mich.

For complete information on the various "big matches," write to the organizers at the addresses given. Generally speaking, the Bianchi Cup is over Memorial Day weekend every year in Columbia, Mo.; The Masters is the first weekend of August in Quincy, Ill.; the Steel Challenge is in mid-April in Los Angeles, Calif. However, the dates can vary and our six month lead time prohibits timely

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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	1 st Escort
Cobra	BEL Quantum	2 nd Escort
Uniden	Whistler	2 nd Passport
Radio Shack	Maxon	
BEL	Radio Shack	
Whistler	Uniden	
Sparkomatic	Fox	
Fox	Cobra	
GUL	BEL Vector	
	Snooper	
	Fuzzbuster	
	Sparkomatic	
	Sunkyoung	

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publication of coming events. The cost of entering varies, but you can figure on about \$200 for entry fee at any of the "big matches." To contribute to the fight against the gun-grabbers, join the National Rifle Association for \$20 annually and donate to its political arm, the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action. (NRA, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20036.)

How To Reach the Shooting Sports

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(206) 856-2061

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Big Hug For Bear Hug

I recently ordered a pair of custom made grips from Bear Hug Grips (P.O. Box 25944, Colorado Springs, CO 80936) that are custom fit from a tracing of the shooter's hand. I received them about three months later and was very pleased with them.

They fit my hand like a glove—finger grooves and palm swell are in just the right places. Workmanship is outstanding. I also received many comments on the beautiful piece of walnut, satin oil finish.

I hope you will print this for your readers' benefit. I highly recommend Bear Hug.

Steve A. Miller
Palm Springs, Fla.

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.



Dick Casull:

Dick Casull became the 16th Outstanding American Handgunner at the Foundation's annual banquet held in Orlando, Florida during the National Rifle Association's annual meetings. This honor also inducted Casull into the Handgunner Hall of Fame by having his name added to those of past winners on the Foundation's bronze in the National Firearms Museum in Washington, D.C.

Casull, inventor of the .454 Casull cartridge and developer of the Casull single action revolver, was elected to this honor by popular vote by members of O.A.H.A.F. from a "Top Ten" list which included Joe Benner; Bill Blankenship; Jeanne Bray (she passed away two weeks before the awards banquet); James E. (Jimmy) Clark, Sr.; Dean Grennell; Roy Jinks; Bob Milke; Audrey Murtland and Harry Reeves.

George C. Nonte, Jr. was elected posthumously into the Handgunner Hall of Fame.

The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation was founded by Lee

Jurras and his Super Vel Cartridge Corporation in 1973.

The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation is composed of shooters and sponsoring companies interested in promoting the sporting use of handguns.

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Annual membership in O.A.H.A.F. is \$15 with Life Membership available for \$150. To join the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, Inc., or for more information, write to them at 539 Roslyn, San Antonio, TX 78204.



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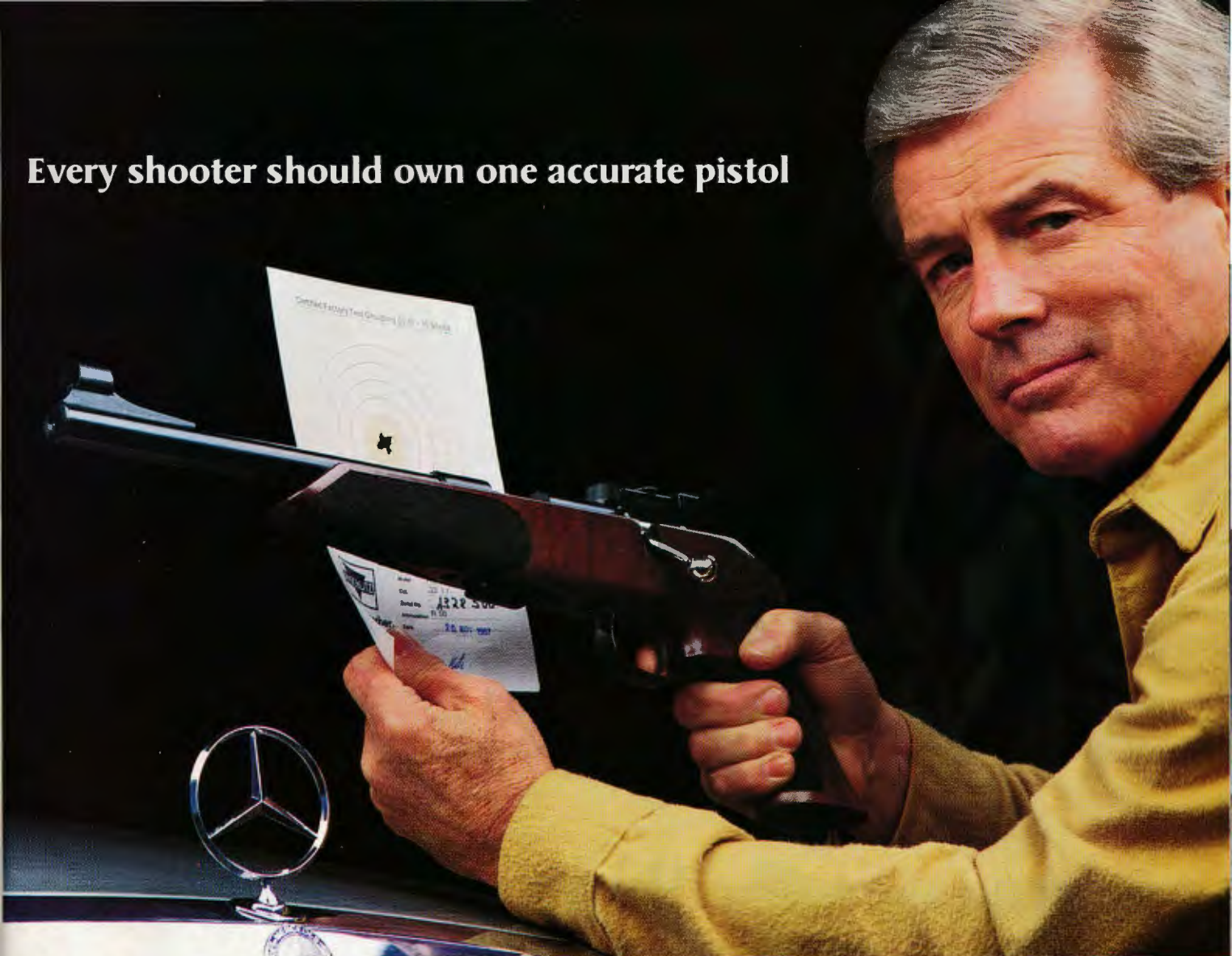
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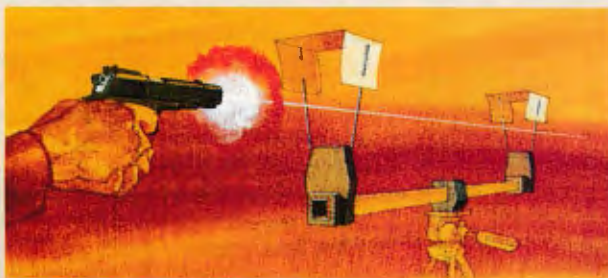
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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN LAWSON

PROVOKING THOUGHTS ON ACCURACY AS CLIFF LABOUNTY DISCUSSES BARRELS

I drove 175 miles through brief sunbreaks and blinding rain storms to talk with Cliff LaBounty (LaBounty Precision Reboring, 7968 Silver Lake Road, Dept. AH, Maple Falls, WA 98266, (206) 599-2047) about pistol barrel reboring and

rifling techniques. His well-equipped shop is deep in a picturesque alpine wood, some ten miles from the Canadian border, in the foothills of Washington's North Cascades.

A former school teacher, Cliff learned barrel making from the legendary Ward

Kooser. During the ensuing 15 years, he has made a transition from the ratchety scrape rifling cutters, favored by Kooser, to the more precise hook cutters that account for his barrels rating among the best custom tubes produced today.

AH: *Why are stainless steel barrels gaining such rapid popularity?*

Cliff: Stainless steels machine more easily, causing less wear on tools and its use insures a uniform round hole and a smoother surface in the grooves of cut rifling. That translates to more uniform dimensions from end to end, and uniformity makes an accurate barrel. Furthermore, you get better barrel life from stainless.

AH: *If stainless barrels are easier to make, why are they more expensive, in some cases, than chrome moly barrels?*

Cliff: A 24-inch chrome moly barrel blank costs a manufacturer \$8. A 416 stainless blank costs \$30 from the mill. At more and more matches, the most accurate barrels are those made of 416 stainless. To a barrel maker, the ultimate in accuracy means the ultimate in being able to maintain dimensions. An extra \$25 added to the price of a barrel doesn't mean anything to a competitor who wants the most accurate barrel he can find.

AH: *Barrel makers used to star gauge or air gauge their finished tubes to discover the most uniform examples. What is used today?*

Cliff: Most barrel makers use a Foster deep hole probe to gauge the uniformity of rifling. Moore & Wright, in England, make a two point ball contact gauge that is suitable for pistol barrels. Using one of these, it is easy to detect ratcheting or tight and loose spots.

AH: *Is ratcheting a problem for the barrel maker or the shooter?*

Cliff: Both. A ratchety barrel collects fouling more easily than a smooth cut tube. A cut rifle barrel is more difficult to make without ratcheting, or roughness, in rifling, because the cutter is going down the bore and twisting at the same time. The side component force is considerable. If there is any play between the cutter and the rifling head pocket, it will crowd over to one side, and when you view the finished product from the muzzle end, the right hand side of the grooves will be deeper, allowing gas blowby and deteriorating the accuracy potential. A good barrel maker grinds his tools to take this into account.

AH: *Do you make your own tools?*

Cliff: A barrel maker has to make most of his own tools. It requires the use of a lathe, a milling machine, a surface grinder, a tool and cutter grinder, a deep hole boring machine and a rifling machine. If you have a good deal of patience, and can live with a scrape cutter's results, a lathe, drill press, grinder and some abrasive powder will be all that's required.

AH: *What kind of work do you do on handguns? Let's discuss the Bolo and*

Continued on page 123

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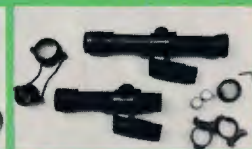


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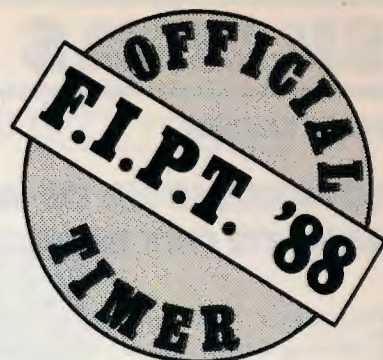
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SILUETAS

JOHN TAFFIN

CONFESSIONS OF A BIG BORE ADDICT: HOW TO GET MORE FUN WITH RIMFIRES

For years I had been perfectly happy shooting the big bore silhouette course. Oh, once in awhile I would look over at the .22 course and say quietly to myself, "That's for women and children—real men shoot big bores!" Seeing promotions on state championships for .22 silhouettes, I would wonder if anyone really attended. Surely no big bore shooter would put down his ram slammin' centerfires and lower himself to silhouettes with the wimpy .22.

Being very comfortable and smug in my attitude, I eventually made the fatal mistake. Joe Schulman, a Manurhin importer, sent me a quintet of the French made silhouette revolvers, and lo and behold, one of them was a .22. Now I had to shoot what had been heretofore totally ignored by yours truly, the .22 course.

Two things happened the first time I fired the course: I found out how ignorant I had

really been. This was not a course designed to give the women and kids something to do while the "man" of the house shot big bores—this was a new major challenge in silhouetting. Secondly, I was hooked on .22's!

If you have ignored .22 silhouetting, I challenge you to give it a try. You will probably find that it takes real shooting skill to master the .22 phase of silhouetting. Actually, there are three phases of .22 silhouetting, each one being increasingly difficult.

The easiest, but not easy mind you, is found in the NRA Smallbore Hunter Pistol Course. Targets are one-half the size of the big bore course, and this "one-half" nomenclature is misleading. Any good eighth grade math student knows that when a two dimensional object has its length and width both decreased by one-half, the resulting area is actually one-fourth. So even though the distance in Smallbore Hunter Pistol is cut in half

for each bank of targets—that is 25, 50, 75, and 100 meters—the targets offer only one-fourth of the area to hit. Tough! And to keep it tough, all targets are shot from a standing position only.

Moving up the ladder, we come to the second most difficult type of .22 silhouetting, the IHMSA .22 course. A few simple measurements will show why the IHMSA .22 course is so difficult to master. Looking at the ram target, for example, in NRA and IHMSA Big Bore, Smallbore Hunter Pistol, and IHMSA .22, we find the following approximate measurements:

	Nose To Tail	Back To Belly
Big Bore Ram	32"	14"
NRA Smallbore	16"	7"
IHMSA .22	12"	5"

Believe me, a five-inch target at 100 meters is much more difficult to connect on than a 14-inch at 200 meters. IHMSA has standing as well as free-style classifications, but, unlike NRA rules, does not allow scopes.

The most difficult type of .22 silhouetting is that afforded by the .22 course at The Masters Tournament. The authors of The Masters .22 course have combined bullseye shooting with silhouetting and come up with

Continued on page 113

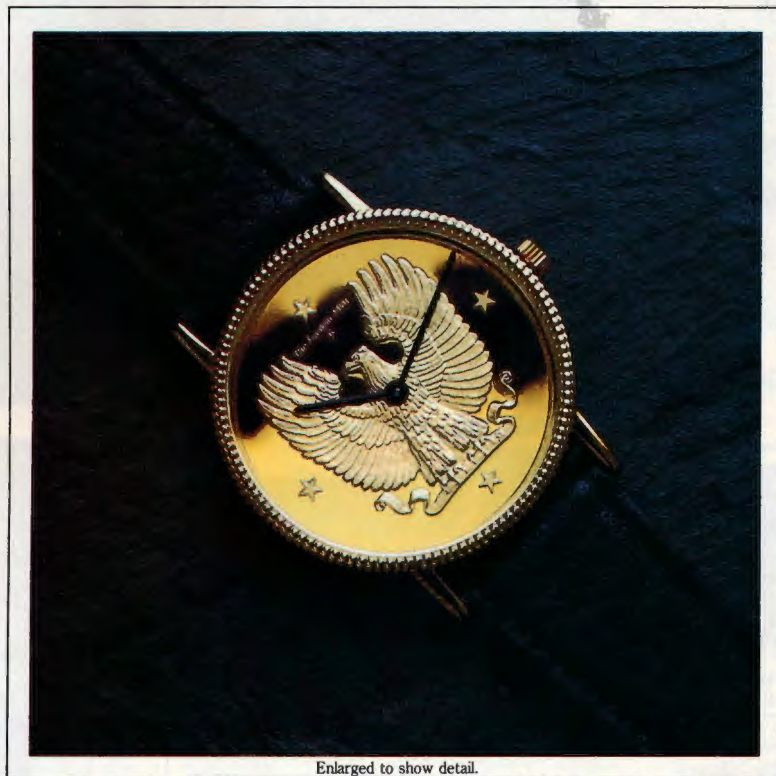


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Hollywood Guns

Just for fun, every once in awhile *American Handgunner* has articles on customized "Hollywood Handguns." Being an avid shooter, owning both production and customized pistols, I am curious about what type of customized pistol was used by the "cyborg police officer" in the movie *Robocop*.

Mark Taniguchi
Orangevale, Calif.



Beretta Model 93R



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Photo courtesy of Randy Moore

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Robocop fired a highly customized Beretta Model 93, a 9mm full-auto machine pistol. Pistolsmith Randy Moore of Weapons Masters (1205 Warwick, Dept. AH, Mesquite, TX 75150) performed the extensive modifications to the Beretta.

Randy converted the machine pistol to fire from three to seven shot bursts. He also converted the gun to fire with a fixed barrel, straight blowback, to handle the blanks fired on the movie set.

The grips were custom made of Delrin, a plastic-like substance, to accommodate the large "gloves" of Robocop. The magazine well was beveled for easier insertion of fresh magazines.

The original handgun, the Beretta 93, is basically a full-auto machine pistol version of the model 92. The 93 comes with a detachable shoulder stock and a compensator (muzzle brake), a selector switch for semi- and full-auto fire and a 20-shot magazine.

American Handgunner would like to thank Randy Moore for supplying photos of Robocop's gun.



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Rick Jamison, Shooting Times

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After completing the statistical summary your PC will allow you to review each shot (up to 300) of your string.

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LEATHAM'S COLUMN

ROB LEATHAM

SILHOUETTE AND PRACTICAL SHOOTING: ARE THEY 'GAMES' OR SERIOUS TESTS?

How realistic should shooting competition be? And at what point should the sport of the game override the realism? Nearly every shooting sport is based on some form of practical use for a firearm. The handgun, specifically, seems to draw the most attention these days as its popularity is growing in leaps and bounds.

Let's take a look at silhouette shooting. One of the most popular handgun sports going, silhouette had its start in hunting, a fact quite obvious to anyone who has observed the game simply by the shape of the targets used. Steel cutouts of chickens, javelinas, turkeys and big horn sheep, or "rams," give the game its name.

The originators obviously had hunting on their minds when designing the test, but elected to increase the difficulty factor by placing the targets at what seemed, at the time, extremely long distances. The closest target, the chicken, is 50 meters away, and the furthest, the ram, 200 meters.

At first glance this would seem to make hitting the targets impossible and with a more or less normal sidearm it would be for most. Another factor here has to be whether the cartridge being used would be capable of doing the job even if a good hit could be accomplished.

What you have to ask yourself is whether the game should hold true to real hunting or should the challenge, the sport, take precedence over realism? This is a question each must answer for himself. In the mid-1970's when silhouette shooting began, those targets spread out over 200 meters were extremely tough.

Not only was it tough, but also the fact that the rams weighed 40 pounds or so made the use of a heavy caliber mandatory. You would show up with your trusty .44 Magnum and take your shot at the game. You would hit a few and you would miss a few, and this was expected.

Then a little of that human ingenuity took over and experimenting began with different guns and cartridges, not to mention shooting positions. Shooters found that a good Contender or XP-100 pushing a 7mm bullet weighing 140 or more grains at over 2000 fps not only was more accurate than that old .44, but also had less recoil, shot much flatter, and was more reliable at knocking down the targets.

Sure there was a big uproar from those who wanted to shoot their revolvers or autoloaders and, to keep everyone happy, the organizing body instituted classes just for the unlimited guns as they were a much more efficient tool at flattening those steel

targets.

Some said this would ruin the sport, others said this would give more opportunity for those who like to tinker to develop better ways to win the games and increase popularity. Who is right? Neither group is totally correct. I know of several people who have taken game with weapons that would only classify as unlimited. I also know shooters who think anything larger than a 6-inch barreled revolver to be a gimmick.

Keeping in mind the founding principles, the organizers increased the difficulty of the courses of fire to reflect the ever increasing skill level of those who participated.

Everyone has an individual set of beliefs with which to judge the world around them. Why can't they both be right? After all is not variety the spice of life? The guy with the revolver has little chance of competing with the bolt gun, but neither should he truly expect to—after all, he is playing by a different set of rules.

Other shooting sports are currently going through the same type of turmoil as silhouette once did. In IPSC there is a trend now to designing courses of fire that stress the ability of the shooter and his equipment far beyond the original intended use by those who designed the game. Is this wrong? Let's look at it this way: The founding principles of this type of shooting is *speed, power and accuracy*.

As intended, IPSC practical shooting was to be a form of exploration to find what worked the best. The original intent was to use the sidearm as a practical tool for self-protection. Long ago it was found that the skill necessary to use a weapon in this manner was not nearly as critical as the willingness and decisiveness with which it was employed.

Therefore, as in any game, those who manipulated the game looked for ways to make the test more challenging. Keeping in mind the founding principles, the organizers increased the difficulty of the courses of fire to reflect the ever increasing skill level of those who participated.

And those who played the game were, of course, always on the lookout for a better way to get the job done. Those who elected not to ride the wave of advancement

quickly found themselves left behind, both in skill and equipment. This was responded to with a cry of *Foul!* by those who felt that the game should remain stagnant.

Meanwhile, compensated firearms shooting smaller diameter bullets gained popularity as better tools. The original intent of speed, power and accuracy was in force and all was well in the mind of those playing.

The key factor that everyone seems to have forgotten is that the game was based on a realistic test of one's ability to use the tool in a stressful situation. The emphasis has gone somewhat further than was ever intended, and the skill level right along with it.

We now do with boring regularity, feats of shooting skill that 10 years ago would have seemed impossible. The reason for this is that those who were at the forefront of the sport at any one time did not let the shortsightedness of those who had given up the game deter their quest for

improvement.

Those who said the use of purpose-built tools designed just to win the game were ruining the sport never realized it was their limited vision that had gone astray, not the sport.

In truth, those who play the game at its fullest are the ones, having set no goal of perfection, push the envelope of performance further and further.

A sub-5 second *El Presidente* was once considered completely out of reach, but those who never quit are now breaking the ground for consistent runs in the three second zone. To many this seems impossible, but the fact is it is happening and you must choose at which time you get off the train.

Let no one place a limitation on what you can achieve, especially yourself. Today's incredible is tomorrow's so-so.

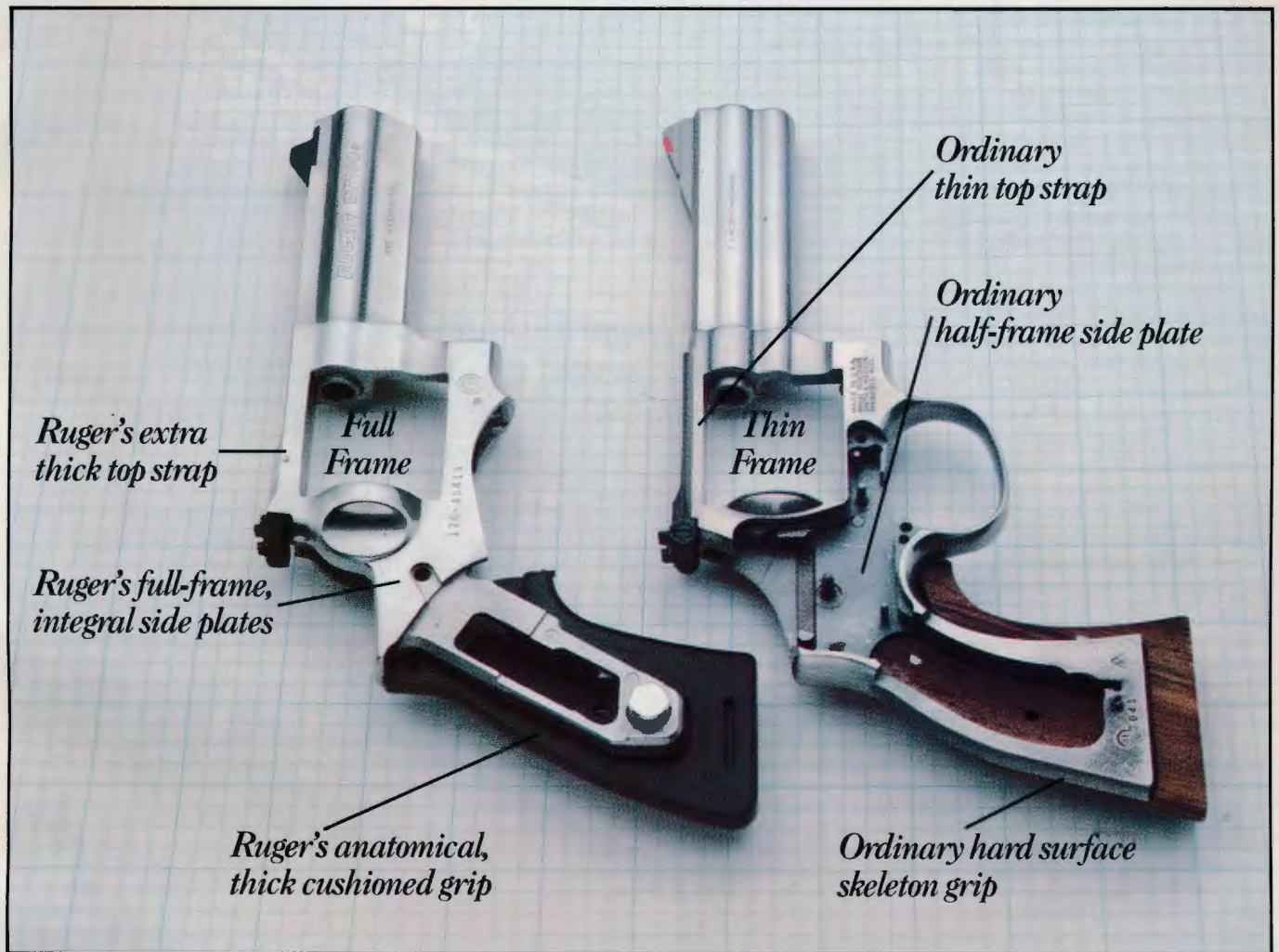
Only when you decide you know enough do you quit learning.

If the pace is too rapid and you no longer wish to play the game, there is no shame in stopping where you are. But for those of us who are still on the quest, should we be slowed by those whose only thoughts are of whether you should be allowed to put a compensator on your gun? I think not. If this is the level on which the criticism comes from, then things indeed are well.

If one looks at raising children as simply a way to get more people in the world, the value of the whole lesson has been overlooked. If one looks at the ability to knock down rams at 200 meters while standing with any handgun as simply practice for

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STRENGTH AND DESIGN SEPARATE AN ORDINARY .357 FROM THE RUGER GP100



Ruger's GP100—for the first time, an affordably-priced double-action revolver engineered from the beginning to do a .357 Magnum job. Unlike the Smith and Wesson .357 frame, which is adapted from a frame built for lighter cartridges, the Ruger frame is visibly stronger in all of the critical areas supporting the barrel. It was built for one purpose—to withstand the stresses imposed by one of the most demanding revolver cartridges ever made.

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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

CAREFUL STATISTICAL STUDY OF YOUR GUNPOINTS SHOWS IMPORTANT TRENDS

The average police officer among the half-million lawmen with arrest power in the US at any given moment, is likely to go through his career without shooting an offender. Alas, the days seem to be gone when you could "do your twenty" and not even draw your gun.

There is no data base to compute an average of the number of times an officer has to take a suspect he believes to be armed and dangerous, at gunpoint. The writer knows career cops who've never pulled their gun on a man, and officers working in very heavy-action precincts who seldom saw the day go by when they didn't clear leather. Suffice to say that the vast majority of times cops level guns at suspects, the situation ends there without bloodshed.

As an exercise in hypothesis, we took a real-life individual who went from being an armed citizen into law enforcement and now has approximately 15 years behind the badge, primarily in low-action communities but with time spent in heavy action precincts. I attempted to break down the circumstances in which, from 1973 to 1988, he had placed 28 suspects at gunpoint in a total of 18 incidents. All were felony suspects at the moment of the gunpoint and the officer was never accused by his superiors of having used excessive force. No shots were fired once the officer in question had arrived on the scene.

It was suggested that the police reader do what we did for this individual, and break down past experiences into "patterns of contact" from which he can learn and prepare for the future. It is significant to note that attorneys have stated that the officer in question would have been justified in shooting to death some five of the 28 suspects under the circumstances.

Use of Cover could have been better. It was available in 66% of his encounters against 64% of the armed or potentially armed suspects he faced, yet he took cover in only 44% of the instances against only 39% of the individuals. In one case, he emerged from cover with his riot gun levelled to take into custody two Aggravated Assault suspects who had dropped their shotguns, but one of whom was still armed with a small caliber pistol.

Weapons Deployed included a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with 00 buck on three occasions (17%) against a total of five perpetrators (18%) averaging 1.7 suspects per incident. With the exception of the above-mentioned incident with the shotgun-armed suspects, cover was taken and utilized in all cases, to the point of the suspects' surrender.

Given considerable latitude in handgun

choice by Command, the involved officer used a .45 Colt autoloader to take eight individuals (29%) at gunpoint in five encounters (28%), averaging 1.6 suspects faced per encounter. A four-inch .357 Magnum service revolver was used in three encounters (17% of total) against four perpetrators, or 14% of the total averaging 1.3 opponents per episode.

This officer frequently carried a two-inch .38 or short barrel .357 revolver off duty, and four individuals in a total of three incidents were taken at gunpoint with a snub .38 (14%, averaging 1.3 perpetrators per encounter) and three individuals were captured in two incidents with short-barrel .357 Magnum revolvers (17%, 1.5 perps per confrontation).

Justice Department studies have shown that in a given year, armed citizens will shoot 130% as many criminals in self-defense as will police.

Though he has often carried a 9mm auto and rarely worn a four-inch .38, he has never drawn a 9mm on a man but has twice taken suspects at the point of a four-inch revolver loaded with .38 Special. In one case as a civilian it was the "only available gun" and loaded with lead round nose; in the other case, on police patrol, it was a four-inch Magnum that happened to be loaded with Winchester +P+ that he drew when one suspect went for a gun. Exactly 2.0 suspects were faced on each occasion.

In the first case the perp was armed with a knife, in the second with a .22, and each time an unarmed accomplice was necessarily taken at gunpoint along with the "active" armed subject.

Nature of Call showed, for the first time, deviations from the national norms of "patterns of encounter with dangerous criminals." Six armed robbery suspects drew the dark eye of his levelled gun in four incidents, for a 21-22% encounter pattern and 1.5 suspects faced each time. This officer spent his career patrolling bedroom communities and thus predictably had his highest encounter exposure with home invaders, experience that includes situations when he was at home and the intended victim: seven suspects at gunpoint in five encounters for 25-28% of his exposures and an average of 1.4 perpetrators faced.

Traffic stops are among the deadliest killers of police, yet this officer has only drawn

twice in pure traffic stop scenarios: once on a suspect about to run down a brother officer, once on a motorist who reached for, and grabbed, a highpower rifle. Yet traffic stops have been his most frequent activity as a patrolman turned supervisor. "Maybe I've been lucky," he confesses. By his reckoning, it's 11% of the encounters and 7% of the individuals that caused him to draw in this scenario.

An arguable crossover is one of the two Assault With a Deadly Weapon cases, which began with a traffic stop but subsequently escalated. Involving a total of three individuals (11% exposure overall), it put him against an average of 1.5 individuals.

To show how a single incident can skew statistics, he had one robbery attempt by two ostensibly unarmed suspects and one aggravated assault with a shooting victim down before he took the shooter and his partner into custody, all at gunpoint. Each merits only 6% of encounter exposure and 7% of suspect exposure, but 2.0 suspects were faced in each encounter and on the average. In one case, no weapons were recovered, in the other, two 12-gauge shotguns were confiscated by the officer including the one that wounded the victim of the earlier incident.

Status of Officer again skews from the norm. In 50% of the incidents against 46% of the "gunpoint-ees," the officer was on police patrol. With 28% of incidents and 21% of perpetrators he was technically an off-duty police officer. In 22% of the incidents against 25% of the suspects, however, he was a civilian at the time of the gunpoint encounter. Nationwide, major cities show an average close to 60% uniformed officers versus 40% off-duty and plainclothesmen in gunfights, but of course no statistics are maintained on *gunpoints*, the subject of our present discussion.

The involved officer spent much of his adult civilian life in high-risk enterprises where he was licensed to carry weapons. Lest this be thought a completely unusual exposure rate, it should be noted for what it's worth that Justice Department studies have shown that in a given year, armed citizens will shoot 130% as many criminals in self defense as will police. In communities such as Chicago the ratio has been known to top 300%.

With the civilian encounters removed from his background, the officer in question shows about a 2/3 on duty, 1/3 off duty encounter pattern, very close to the 60/40 ratio that has been attributed to such departments as NYCPD and Atlanta PD.

Alarming, the officer under discussion faced an average of 1.4 perpetrators as a

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HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

RUMINATION ON A HUNTING HANDGUN'S KILLING POWER STILL LEAVES DOUBTS

Finding a reasonably priced hunt where you have a reasonable chance of success is getting harder and harder. I have my share of problems finding them too. Matter of fact I went on an elk hunt in Montana that was highly recommended—a real dud! Maybe the outfitter just went haywire overnight, or something, because he had produced reasonably in the past.

This is the ninth year *Handgun Hunters International* has been in existence and one of its services is to organize hunts for its members. Generally speaking, HHI hunts occur in most areas of the country. After nine years of experience it is getting easier to set up good hunts than previously.

In 1988 so far we have antelope, mule deer, elk and whitetail hunts scheduled for members. Last February we had a Nilgai hunt (a large, very spooky, tough animal originally from India) at a cost of about \$1000. Considerably less than an individual would normally expect to pay for such a hunt.

HHI hunts are usually group hunts consisting of four or more members. The antelope hunt, for example, is limited to 15 hunters. The Texas whitetail hunt is on a 480,000 acre ranch and is limited to 49 hunters.

A Texas hunt for trophy Blackbuck will probably be held in January of 1989. Obviously, we do not have a very good idea of what is going to come up in the future but at this time we are able to provide a significant number of members with quality, low-cost hunts with a very, very good chance of success.

Membership in HHI entitles a member to participate in these hunts. HHI annual dues are \$20 and the *Sixgunner*, a periodical written by the members, is included. It is published bi-monthly. (HHI, P.O. Box 357 Mag, Dept. AH, Bloomington, OH 43910)

Killing power. Stopping power. Knockdown power. Muzzle energy. Energy transfer. What's the most powerful cartridge I can buy? I answer specific questions about these subjects on a daily basis from customers, and sometimes I feel I'm nearly as confused as they are.

There seems to be an enormous amount written about these subjects that simply leaves me with the idea that the writers don't have any notion of the facts of life and death. Roughly the same thing occurs when both man and beast are struck with a projectile. Simply stated, trauma results. Tissue and bone are pulverized. Depend-

ing on what is hit, a wound of greater or lesser severity is created resulting in everything from a scratch to instant death.

The most powerful cartridge. What is it? What's your definition of power? Is it the ability to drill through massive bone and muscle and keep on plowing through the animal? Or the ability to zip a light bullet at high velocity for 250 yards to expand violently on the rib cage and lungs of a 90 pound antelope without exiting? Is it simply X cartridge has Y muzzle energy? Or is it something else?

Frankly, I don't believe there is a simple answer. Maybe no answer. I've driven a 500 grain Hornady solid from a 45-70 through about seven feet of animal weighing in excess of a ton and dropped him on the spot. Within 24 hours of that particular shot I fired an identical 500 grain bullet through the center of the lungs of a 100 pound Impala 20 yards away from me and it didn't even stop grazing—for maybe 15–20 seconds. Then it calmly walked about 25 yards, laid its head down and went to sleep.

The body is a pressurized system—screw up the pressurizing and it doesn't work well anymore. Heart, lung and frequently liver shots are almost equally effective.

Maybe, just maybe, the resistance of the animal has something to do with killing power too. How about shot placement? How about bullet construction? What about a bullet's energy transfer?

How can you tell the difference in power between a 300 grain .375 bullet that penetrates a buffalo's brain and a 500 grain .45 bullet that does the same thing? I'm firmly convinced you can't kill something any deadlier than dead.

The fact of the matter is that if the bullet is of sufficient construction, it penetrates instead of coming apart. And if it has enough velocity to penetrate deeply enough to pass through the vital organs, any bullet of any caliber will produce a rather quick knockdown, incapacitation, kill or whatever you want to call it. The shots that strike the most vital organs work the fastest. The shots that strike the least vitals may not produce any results and the animal may recover without any ill effects.

Obviously the quickest kill (knock-

down, incapacitation, stopping, what-have-you) comes when the shot strikes the brain or spinal cord. Or at least close enough to it to damage it. For example, a shot striking the pelvis of man or beast is usually instantly incapacitating due to trauma imparted to the nerves running through the pelvis and damage occurring to the end of the spinal column. I have on occasion seen a pelvis shot kill immediately.

Otherwise death occurs by depriving the brain of oxygen. If the lungs don't function, the blood doesn't have oxygen in it and the brain dies. If the heart doesn't function, oxygenated blood isn't carried to the brain. If major bleeding occurs, ultimately there is no blood to go to the brain.

The body is a pressurized system—screw up the pressurizing and it doesn't work well anymore. Heart, lung and frequently liver shots are almost equally effective. When struck, the liver tends to explode creating a massive wound and phenomenal amounts of bleeding.

If you don't hit the vital organs an animal can continue to function for a long, long time prior to succumbing to its wound. *No matter what you hit it with.* Energy freaks take note—a knife through the heart is worth a lot more than 10,000 foot pounds of energy in the ass.

Frankly, I don't even consider muzzle energy in attempting to evaluate a cartridge. Energy numbers and comparisons are interesting but mighty misleading.

Rather than worrying about what is the "most powerful," it makes more sense to

me to be primarily concerned with the job the cartridge-gun combination will be called upon to perform. This should take into consideration the size of the animal and the normal ranges it is encountered.

Certainly, a 250 yard antelope-deer cartridge such as the 6.5 JDJ is capable of killing a buffalo at 25 yards in the bush and a 500 grainer from a 45-70 will kill a 250 yard antelope. However, common sense should tell us to pick the right tool for the job.

If the job may encounter both large and small game at the same time, a .375 JDJ will handle both jobs quite well assuming the proper bullet is used. Again, common sense tells us to pick the compromise cartridge instead of a specialized one in that case.

Killing power is the result of several facets of internal, external and terminal ballistics. In rifles a very large number of calibers are suitable to handle most any

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M-9

The new US military pistol M-9 is being retested in the wake of serious failures.

By AH Staff

The United States Government is calling for a new test to determine the official sidearm of the US Armed Forces after several slide failures of the Beretta 92F 9mm pistol which have resulted in at least two servicemen being hospitalized. Beretta slides separated in half and the rear portion of the slides flew backwards, smashing the shooters in their faces.

The Commanding Officer of the Naval Weapons Support Center said in a recently de-classified memo about the M-9 pistol, the military designation of the Beretta 92F:

'In the past two months there have been two failures of pistol slides. One incident occurred at a Navy unit, one at an Army test facility. In both cases, failure was abrupt without indication of impending failure. Both slides broke in two pieces at the front of the locking block cutouts . . . In both cases the back half of the slide was propelled to the rear and hit the shooter. These slide failures are being investigated . . .

'In the interim, due to the potential for injury in the event of a slide failure, use of M9 pistols is limited to operational and emergency use only. M9 pistols are not to be fired for familiarization or training purposes . . .'

Beretta spokesman Robert Bonaventure told the *American Handgunner* that Beretta does not intend to issue a product recall or a safety warning on the 92F pistol.

The new test for a Personal Defense Weapon began May 10, 1988 in the wake of these catastrophic slide failures. On May 10 the military sent out solicitations to interested parties to submit test samples of 9mm pistols for evaluation.

The Beretta 92F won the XM9 military test in 1984 as the new sidearm for US armed forces. The XM9 contract was awarded to Beretta in 1985 for 320,030 pistols to be delivered over five years. *American Handgunner* sources report that the existing contract is not affected by the call for a new test.

A highly placed source speaking on condition of anonymity told the *American Handgunner* that a recent US Customs bulletin said that all customs agents should be aware of the ' . . . extreme risk in continued use of these weapons (Beretta 92F) . . .'

The Navy's 'Safety of Use' bulletin orders that all Beretta 92 slides be replaced when 3,000 rounds have been fired. The military's contract with Beretta calls for a service life of 7,000 rounds.

The first of the two disastrous slide separations occurred at about the 4,000 round mark and the second at around the 5,000 round mark, according to Navy documents made available to *American Handgunner*.

If it is not possible to keep track of the number of rounds fired, the Navy said that 'Usage will be estimated and slides replaced on a time basis. For example, if a weapon fires approximately 5,000 rounds a year, replace the slide at six month intervals.'

Bonaventure said the Navy's 'Safety of Use' bulletin is the first time that a Beretta slide failure has been reported. He said there are over one million Beretta 92F pistols in service around the world and that the Navy's report is the first reference to a slide separation.

However, a confidential source who spoke on condition of

anonymity told the *American Handgunner* that 'several' reports of similar slide failures on the 92F have been received from Europe.

Bonaventure, a senior Beretta executive, said the slide failures are due to the use of high pressure ammunition, not a defect in the pistol.

However, the Navy bulletin says that the first slide failure took place with 'non-NATO 9mm ammunition . . . and the second failure occurred while firing US 9mm M882 ammunition.'

Winchester makes M882 ammunition for the military and *American Handgunner* contacted Tim Bagniesski of Winchester to inquire if M882 exceeds standard pressures as set by SAAMI.

'It does not exceed SAAMI maximum,' Bagniesski said. He said the 9mm M882 cartridge is loaded with a 124 grain full metal jacket bullet at an approximate muzzle velocity of 1,100 fps.

A procurement program to secure a new sidearm began in 1978 when the House Appropriations Committee became concerned over a proliferation of various models and makes of handguns in service. Some branches of the armed forces were issued .38 Special revolvers while others were issued .45 ACP pistols.

The Committee found there were, in all, 25 different makes, models or types of handguns using over 100 different varieties of ammunition. The Committee ordered the Department of Defense to form a joint-service task force charged with conducting a test for a new sidearm to replace the hodge-podge varieties then in service.

The joint-service team issued a report in 1980 stating that the 9mm Luger should be the cartridge. An independent Air Force test, underway since 1978, recommended the Beretta 92F as the pistol. But the Department of Defense did not believe that the Air Force test had been 'scientific' so on June 10, 1980 it issued a call for test samples to be submitted for what was called the XM9 test program.

Competition began in 1981 with four contestants-Smith and Wesson, H&K, Beretta and SIG. In February of 1982 the test was interrupted because all the guns had failed mandatory test requirements.

In November 1983 the Army resumed testing, now with eight manufacturers submitting guns by January, 1984. The testing began in February. The attrition rate was fierce:

April 4, 1984: Steyr GB rejected for insufficient reliability.

May 31, 1984: FN voluntarily withdrew its design.

July 18, 1984: Colt voluntarily withdrew the Colt SSP.

September 18, 1984: The Army rejected the Walther P-88, the H&K P-7M13 and the S&W M-459M.

Now only two weapons remained in contention, the Beretta 92F and the SIG P-226. Based on final bids, Beretta won the contract with a lower price than SIG-\$178.50 versus \$217.84 per gun.

Beretta was awarded the contract on April 10, 1985.

Now, three years later, the tests begin again. Prior to the May 10 call for new samples for testing, a separate test had been conducted at the behest of the General Accounting Office. The GAO had ruled that the original XM9 test was

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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

DAVE ANDERSON

TIPS ON HOW TO PICK A SHOOTING COACH AND WHY ONE IS NECESSARY

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Anderson to the position of Practical Shooting Editor. Dave is well-qualified to write the Insights Into IPSC column. A Canadian citizen, Dave has served as the Section Coordinator for Saskatchewan and as a member of Canada's IPSC National Executive Council for the past four years. He and IPSC Vice President Nick Alexakos designed the course of fire for the 1986 World IPSC Championships. Dave was selected to design the course of fire by IPSC World President J.P. Denis who has said of him, "I think Mr. Anderson is the most competent man in this field. Especially, he understands well how a major IPSC match should be created." Dave won the prestigious Prix du President award in 1985 for his work on the course of fire for the 1985 Canadian IPSC National Championships. He is currently a member of USPSA and frequently travels to the United States to shoot in competition. He attained an "A" class ranking after less

than a year of competition and was a member of the Canadian Silver Team at the 1983 World Championships. Dave is married to his wife Simone, has a daughter Andrea and makes his living as a farmer.

Let's say you want to drive from your home in Orlando to visit a cousin at his remote ranch in Colorado's high country. What do you need to get there?

Well, obviously you'll need a vehicle of some sort, plus gas and oil, all of which cost money. Once you've got your basic equipment and operating costs covered, all you have to do is put in the time and effort to make the trip, right? Wrong. Unless you plan to reach your destination by blundering around the country until you fall over it, you'll need one more item. You'll need a road map.

The journey from beginner to competent marksman likewise takes money, time, and effort. Equipment costs money. Ammuni-

tion costs money. Your time is worth money, and if it's time that could otherwise be used for family activities, it's maybe worth more than just money. Certainly you can make progress on your own; after all, there are shooters who by means of fierce determination and effort have become champion competitors without any assistance.

But if you want to reduce the time it takes you to reach your goals, with less cost and effort in the bargain, there is one more thing you need. No, it's not a compensator, or a two-tone gun, or a loading machine that spits out two thousand rounds an hour and cooks dinner at the same time.

What you need is a good shooting coach.

There is nothing you can buy which is as cost-effective as proper coaching. Just as a road map saves operating costs and time by directing you to your destination, so good coaching will save time and money by helping you reach your goals by the shortest route. It can save you from doing what so many of us have done—burning up time and effort and ammunition in learning bad habits that will just have to be broken later.

Currently, instruction at the better shooting schools will run in the area of \$200-225 for a two-day course, \$275-300 for a three-day course. Good coaches cost money for the simple reason that there just aren't a lot of them around. And a good one is the only kind you want—an incompetent coach is like an inaccurate road map, worse than nothing at all. How can you tell the difference? While I certainly don't claim to have all the answers, these are what I consider some important characteristics of a good instructor.

First, the instructor you choose should be a good shooter. My feeling is that if he can't teach himself the proper techniques, there's a pretty good chance he can't teach me either. Don't get too hung up on this aspect, though. Bill Pullum, who coached rifle shooters at the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit for several years in the 1960's, was himself a capable but not championship level shooter. Yet he is generally regarded as perhaps the best and most successful shooting coach ever.

Second is something fairly obvious—to be an effective coach, a person must have a logical, analytical and inquisitive mind. Without these abilities it's impossible to assess a student's performance level, isolate his problem areas, or suggest solutions. Of course, determining whether a prospective coach has these abilities can be a bit tricky. You can't really phone him up, chat a bit about course dates and costs, and then casually add, "Oh, by the way, you're not . . . not dumb, are you?" (Well, actually you can. But I wouldn't.) If the instructor you are considering has a good competitive track record you can be fairly certain of his abilities. Today's competition is so tough that it is only by continuous and accurate self-analysis and criticism that a shooter can reach the top levels.

Continued on page 95

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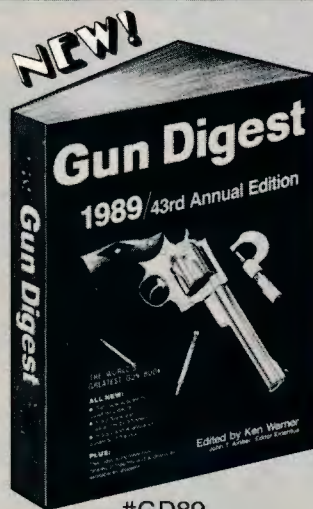
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Edited by Ken Warner

Small Game Centerfires by Holt Bodinson. Desert rats and mountain walkers have rediscovered an old idea in the New Southwest—centerfire small game rifles, most of them old-timey lever guns.

Make Your Muzzleloader Work For You by Sam Fadala. With this veteran's advice in hand, even a first-time muzzleloader hunter can clearly distinguish between the necessary and not-so-necessary gear and skills for successful management of his rifle. From how to carry reloads to the choice of the rifle itself, Sam Fadala touches all the beginner's bases.

I Sold My Lovely Wood by David E. Petzal. He cried a little, as they say, but when Dave Petzal became convinced that the new synthetic stocks outperform the natural works of art, he sold the old to make room for the new. Here's his grudging appreciation for the synthetic and farewell to the wood.

Double Rifles Had Glamour by Howard E. French. There was once no substitute in the really big game fields for the awesome power of a big-bore double rifle. Howard French, a long-time collector and shooter of double rifles, describes how they received their glamour status.

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Free Pistols For The Collectors by Wilfrid Ward. The free pistol is the ultimate single-shot target handgun, used in the excruciating international game of 50-meter targets. Wilfrid Ward believes the time has come to assess the free pistol's potential for the collector—and he finds it quite high.

Early Rivals Of The Model 1911 by John Malloy. The Model 1911 45 caliber semi-automatic pistol was such a successful design, lasting in service for 75 years, that many have forgotten that in 1911 the U.S. Army had a choice. John Malloy gives us a good look at all those far away options.

44 Magnum Carbines: Rifles For Mountain Deer Hunting by Pete Nelson. Having realized that all mountains, once one is on them, are convex, this deer hunter has determined that a quick and handy 44 Magnum carbine makes a fine deer rifle in real conditions.

44 Magnum Carbines: Rifles For Eastern Whitetails by Paul A. Matthews. This Pennsylvania deer hunter, with 50 years of experience, hunted many years with a 375 Holland & Holland. He now finds the 44 Magnum speaks as loud as any when hunting Eastern Whitetails.

Blasts From The Past by Rick Hacker. A current phenomenon on the American firearms scene is the presence of more than a few direct modern copies of 19th century frontier handguns and rifles. With such guns, modern shooters can find out exactly what it was like to shoot the old-timers.

The Man Who Sculptures Airguns by David Wayland. There's a Yorkshire fellow named Don Robinson who, with splendid rococo nonchalance, changes air rifles into uninhibited and delightfully intricate expressions of art one normally associates only with fine firearms. This sort of Weatherby point of view results in firearms very interesting to behold, very comfortable to hold, and very easy to shoot.

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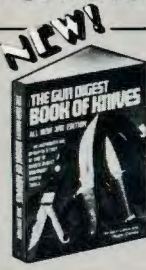
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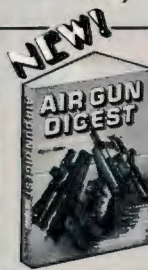
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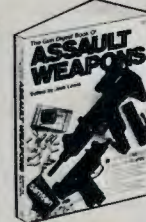
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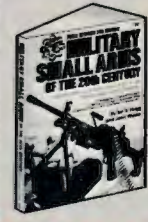
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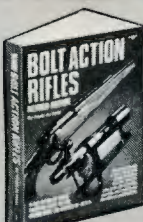
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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

BORE SIZE IS THE KEY TO ACCURACY IN 9mm CAST BULLETS FOR HI-POWERS

It is with great regret that we announce Dan Cotterman's retirement as our Handloading Editor and author of the Handloading column. Dan has been with American Handgunner for 11 years and this is his 59th column on handloading. Dan has been a great friend over the years and we will all miss him. You, the readers, have come to know Dan's "no nonsense" approach to writing about handloading and handloading products—Dan calls a spade a spade. We will seek to replace Dan, but we can never duplicate his indomitable wit and his clever style, the joy of handloading he imparts in each and every column. We salute you, Dan Cotterman, and we wish you happy trails in your golden years ahead.

The Staff of American Handgunner.

You call a guy a specialist when he's hung up enough experience to know what he's talking about. Like Martin Hawkins III, of Searcy, Arkansas. He's been handloading, mostly for handguns, since the late 1940s.

Hawkins writes, "The information provided by you and Jahn Lawson in your respective columns more than justifies the cost of *American Handgunner*. Thanks. Although the observations of an individual—based on what, objectively, must be recognized as a very narrow data base—are at best suspect, I thought I would pass on some of my experience in loading cast bullets for the 9mm Parabellum . . .

"For the past five years, most of my loading has been for the 9mm for use in two Browning Hi-Powers. One is now fitted with the excellent Bar Sto barrel, while the other has the standard factory barrel. In order to prolong the life of my guns and keep costs down, 90 percent of my loads are with cast bullets loaded to moderate pressure and velocity levels. After trying a number of designs, I settled on the Lyman 356402 truncated cone bullet as being the most reliable and accurate for use in my Brownings. I now use it exclusively.

"Working up satisfactory cast bullet loads for the 9mm is not without problems. The most persistent problems were keyholing, leading, and mediocre accuracy. Information provided by Derk von Huls, a handloader from Germany, which you included in the July/August 1982 issue of *American Handgunner*, helped identify one of the causes. He pointed out that many barrels chambered for the 9mm are well over .357-inch groove diameter. This

proved to be the case with four Browning factory barrels that I slugged and measured. All were .357-inch or larger.

"Up to this time I had sized all of my bullets to .356-inch, the 'accepted' diameter for alloy bullets in 9mm. My first step was to recover some bullets from cotton waste. The charge used, which had demonstrated tipping or keyholing about 10 to 15 percent of the time at 25 meters, was 4.5 grains of Winchester 231 in both WW and Federal cases with WW and Federal standard primers. The recovered bullets, cast from three parts linotype and one part lead, told the story. They showed little or no evidence of engraving, and were obviously not engaging the rifling sufficiently to stabilize. Apparently the fast twist (1:10, I believe) of the Browning factory barrel contributed to the undersize bullet problem by fostering skidding and stripping. Leading was heavy and required the use of a Lewis Lead Remover . . .

"Initially I tried two approaches to the problem with some success. First, I sized several hundred bullets through a .358-inch die. Because my as-cast bullets measure .357 inch, this left me with lubricated bullets of the full .357-inch mold diameter. When I fired these bullets with the same load of 4.5 grains of WW 231 through a Browning factory barrel, leading was greatly reduced and only about two

percent of the bullets showed evidence of tipping at 25 meters.

"Next I had a Bar Sto barrel fitted to one of my guns. This barrel, with its slow twist and about .356-inch groove diameter, was used extensively with .356-inch bullets, and showed excellent accuracy, minimal leading, and absolutely no indications of tipping. Recovered bullets were deeply engraved with no signs of skidding.

"Although I had found solutions (either a .357-inch bullet—though .358 would probably be better—in the factory barrel or .356-inch bullets in the Bar Sto), I still hoped to find some way to use .356-inch bullets in both of my guns. One possibility was to use a softer alloy, which would upset more readily as the bullet engaged the rifling. After switching to an alloy of 50 percent linotype and 50 percent lead with about one to two percent additional tin added, most, but not all, of the .356-inch bullets fired in the factory barrel stabilized and leading was light. About this time, because I had begun to suspect the Winchester No. 231 produced sharper recoil and might result in greater wear on my guns, I switched to Hercules Unique.

"Unique is dirtier and doesn't meter quite as well as the ball propellants, but with either 4.5 grains (very accurate) or 5.0 grains of this slower burning powder, the softer-alloy .356-inch bullets shot with good accuracy in the factory barrel, and there was no sign of tipping—even at 100 yards—and only light, easily removed leading. In the Bar Sto-barreled gun the accuracy was excellent.

"Again using Unique, I went back to the harder 3:1 lino/lead alloy and got almost the same results. But not quite. There was a bit more leading in the factory barrel and the occasional tipped bullet.

"A very limited test with other powders, Hercules Bullseye and Hercules Red Dot



Muskox Hunter Bags Award

Greg Murtland shot the new world's record Greenland Muskox with a scoped Ruger .44 Magnum to win the 1988 Handgun Hunter's Trophy Award. Greg says his Muskox scored 78½ points in the Safari Club International record book, placing it Number One by three-quarters of an inch!

Greg hunted on Univak Island where temperatures soared to a sunny *minus* 30° without the wind chill factor. He took his trophy Muskox with a single well-placed bullet from his customized Ruger Super Blackhawk from Mag-Na-Port Arms. He used a 4x Leupold scope.

The Handgun Hunter's Trophy Award is presented each year to the handgun hunter with the best trophy taken by a handgun. The rules for entering and the criteria for selecting a winner are available from the Handgun Hunters' Museum and Hall of Fame, 41302 Executive Drive, Dept. AH, Mt. Clemons, MI, 48045.

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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on the 'fast' side, and Hercules Blue Dot and Herco on the 'slow' side, seems to indicate that the instability of cast, undersized bullets can be greatly reduced by the use of slower burning propellants. I speculate, but do not know, that bullet acceleration from the case to the leade of the rifling is more gradual, thus allowing the bullet to 'dig in' rather than skid. Of interest are similar conclusions reported by Mike Venturino in an article in the January/February 1986 issue of *Handloader* magazine.

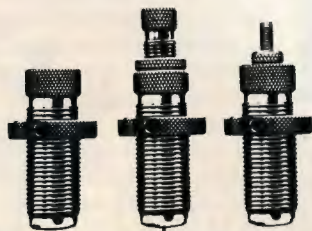
Of great interest to me were the observations by Ed Hobbie, along with your comments, on the effect overall length has on bullet stability, published in your column in the May/June 1988 issue of *American Handgunner*. I must admit that I stuck to the overall length of 1.100", recommended by Lyman, in assembling all my loads. After coming up with a load that met my requirements, I stopped. The next time I cast, I'll run off some 3:1 lino/lead bullets and, in loads using faster propellants, experiment a bit with 1.125" and greater overall lengths."

This is a preview. I wrote a test report on the RCBS 4x4 press, a super heavy-duty rotary reloading press, for the January/February 1986 issue of this magazine. The original 4x4 reflected RCBS quality, but it didn't go all the way; it wasn't automatic. Lately I've been working with a new, fully-updated RCBS 4x4. The new Auto 4x4, which will be available to handloaders November 1st, has a suggested retail price of \$350—which is quite reasonable when you realize it'll index, prime, charge, and eject a loaded round with each stroke of the operating handle.

Original 4x4 presses can be converted to the automatic version for \$50, plus \$10 for return-freight. Contact Jay Postman, Customer Service Technician, RCBS, Inc., Dept. AH, 605 Oro Dam Blvd., Oroville, CA 95965.

Balance Company, 340-39 Ave. S.E., P.O. Box 505, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 1X6, markets an item called "The Bar." It replaces the various discs used to meter powder charges in the Lee Auto-Disk Powder Measure. "The Bar" is fully adjustable and sells for \$14.95, plus \$1.95 shipping, U.S. currency.

And if you're a .41 Magnum fan, you'll find a bonanza of .41 bullets as well as bullets for the .411 JDJ, .41 Avenger, and the new .41 Action Express in Harrison Bullet Works' (6437 E. Hobart St., Dept. AH, Mesa, AZ 85205) free catalog. Weights range from 160 to 300 grains in a variety of shapes.



TEST REPORT

PMC ULTRAMAG

Ultra-light and ultra-fast, but are the cookie cutter bullets the ultimate?

By Howard E. French



PMC has brought out some new ammunition that is loaded with unique tubular bullets. Not for magnums, but for the ever popular .38 Special and the .44 Special revolvers. The bullets are actually hollow tubes made from copper. There is a .290" hole completely through the bullet, leaving a very thin wall to engage the rifling.

Obviously you cannot fire such a bullet since the powder would spill out if you tipped the cartridge over! So each round has a plastic 'pusher' or sabot that covers the tubular hole at the rear of the bullet.

What is so great about the tubular bullet? PMC claims that accuracy is improved, recoil energy drops to zilch and that these bullets, when used for self-defense, have limited penetration.

The tubular bullet sounds like something incredibly new, state-of-the-art for the 21st century. But I found there was a similar bullet developed in the 1880's. Hebler-Krnka developed a tubular bullet in 1888 for the 8mm rifle! It also used a hollow bullet with a sabot or 'shoe wad' to contain the projecting powder gases.

I first checked the weight of both the .38 Special and .44 Special Ultramag bullets. The .44 load is supposed to contain a 110 grain bullet while the .38 Special has a 66 grain projectile. I found that the .44 Special was loaded with a bullet weight of 105 grains while the pusher weighed 8.1 grains. Obviously PMC considers the full bullet weight that of both the bullet as well as the plastic pusher.

The weight on my scales of the .38 Special bullet as well as the 'pusher' came with the tubular bullet at 64.5 grains, while the 'pusher' weighed .6 grains.

When I received the new Ultramag .38 Special rounds I noticed that they were marked + P. I called PMC and they assured me that the .44 Special tubular bullets were just what they said on the headstamp, normal loads and not + P, so I was relieved to find that the .44's can be used in light framed revolvers.

In testing the .44 Special Ultramag tubular ammo I used a S&W with a 3-inch barrel. From this revolver I fired 10 rounds which zipped over the Oehler chronograph at 1198 fps.

Through the same revolver Winchester Silvertips, weighing 200 grains, average 740 fps, while Federal's 200 grain SWC went about the same, 751 fps. The tubular bullet is obviously much faster, although lacking the weight of conventional slugs.

The .38 Special Ultramag rounds were fired from a Dan Wesson revolver with a 2½ inch barrel, they clocked a hefty 1404 fps. I also fired some .357 Magnum loads of CCI Blazer ammo through the same gun with a velocity of 990 fps.

Incidentally, when PMC said recoil was reduced, they weren't kidding. The two lightweight .38 and .44 Special tubulars were more than easy on the hand. If you shoot shotguns it was like shooting a 28 gauge—you know the gun has gone off, but you feel virtually no recoil.

In the Old West the solid lead slug of the .44 was thought of as a killer. Now another bullet, not weighing even half as much, but speeding along at 62% higher velocity, may be an improved manstopper.

I tried the usual device, taking a water filled plastic jug and firing at it with the 3-inch S&W using the .44 Ultramag tubular bullets. I must admit that I was a bit nonplussed. The jug did not burst on impact, although the top was blown off. There was a neat .44 caliber hole blown on both sides of the jug and the spent bullet was picked up in some wet newsprint located behind the jug. However, inside the bullet were two plastic sections from the jug that looked like a paper cutter had stamped them from the jug. The bullet acted like a stiletto, cutting a perfectly round hole through the jug.

To test accuracy I fired six rounds of the .44 Ultramag at 25 yards. All six rounds went into a 1¾-inch group. A group of under two inches at 25 yards certainly shows combat accuracy.

The tubular bullet is a most interesting idea and, I suspect, one that is going to cause many to argue about its potential.



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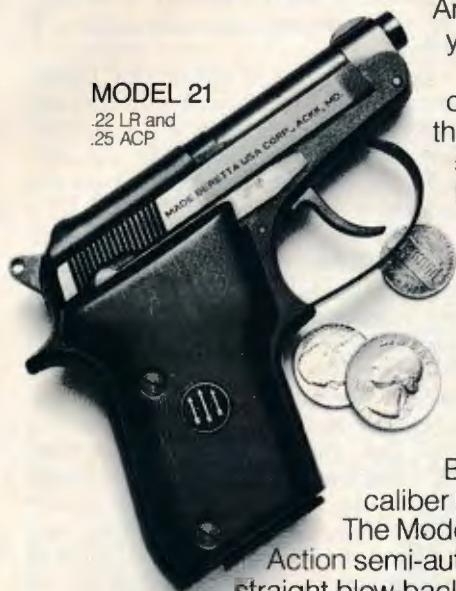
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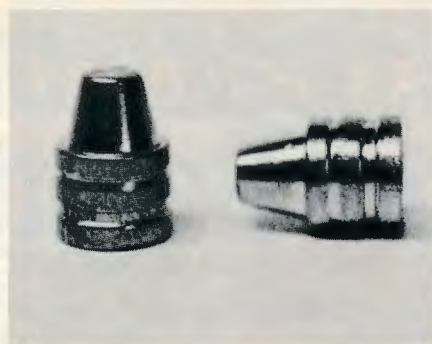
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XS 86-7



Handloading a pure lead 105 grain bullet gives a good self-defense load in a short-barreled .38 Special and the load is cheap enough to allow for practice!

When it comes to portable personal defense, almost everyone seems to want the power of a .44 Magnum in that little .38 Special snubby. As people become more familiar with guns, they realize that no amount of wishing will make a .38 Special, small-frame revolver belch forth the heavy projectiles, flame, smoke and recoil that a .44 Magnum does.

But the .38 snubby does have the advantages of compactness, light weight, accuracy and easy portability. That the .38 Special is a nice gun to carry is attested to by the multitude of makes and models its popularity has brought about.

So, how do you get the most out of your "pocket-partner"?

To be effective as a "fightstopper" or "manstopper," a .38 caliber bullet must expand, or mushroom, upon striking its target. It is this expansion which causes the dramatically-increased shock waves, so disruptive and destructive to adjacent tissue.

This essential bullet expansion usually does not occur at speeds of less than 1,000 fps for jacketed bullets.

And here is the problem for our "pocket-partner." Many varieties of commercial ammo available for the .38 Special barely

.38 SPECIAL SNUBNOSE MANSTOPPERS

By John Hauelsen

reach 1,000 fps, even in 4" or 6" barrels. They are just not going to expand well out of a 2" snubby barrel.

Fortunately, this is where the handloader gets his chance to shine. By using lighter, non-jacketed bullets, the handloader can work up a load that has definite, almost explosive, expansion capability, while staying in safe pressure ranges for a light .38 snubby.

For my .38 snubby defense load, I opted for cast bullets, since they expand much more easily than jacketed bullets, which must first bend back a copper jacket. I also used soft, pure lead to further enhance the expansion qualities of the bullet.

A double-cavity, 105 grain, semi-wadcutter, by Lee (Lee Precision, Inc., 4275 Highway U, Dept. AH, Hartford, WI 53027) was my choice of bullet mould. After an hour or so of casting, I had several hundred pure lead 105 grain SWC bullets ready to size, lube, and put over the powder and put to the test.

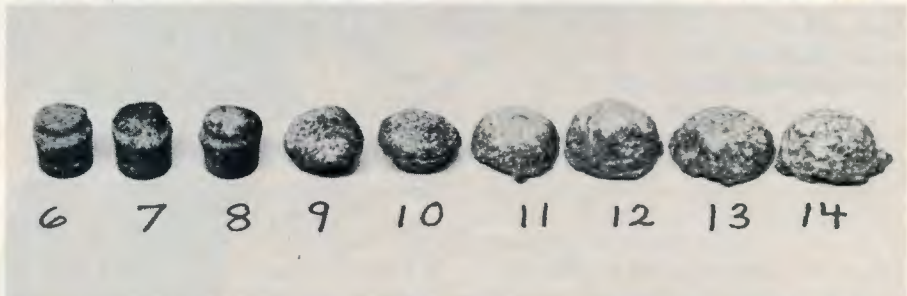
For powder type, my choice was Hercules Blue Dot, which has served well in many .357 Magnum and 9mm Luger power loads. I also favor Blue Dot because of its dull orange flash, rather than a blinding white flash, when used at night or in dark situations (where many shootouts occur).

I used CCI 500 standard small pistol primers and Winchester brass. The gun was a Charter Arms Off-Duty, a typical non- + P, five-shot, .38 snubby, with a barrel just under 2 inches.

Loads were worked up carefully, in quarter-grain increments from a starting charge of 6.0 grains of Blue Dot. I wasn't working for maximum loads so much as for the desired degree of bullet expansion and accuracy without excessive leading of the barrel.

Right now, I won't go into the merits of various bullet expansion test media such as ballistic gelatin, duxseal, wet newspapers,

Continued on page 110



Recovered slugs from expansion testing. The numbers under each bullet show the number of grains of Blue Dot powder used.

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recently, Boyd has been one of the key people in IHMSA's search for the eastern range while running a lucrative automotive business, marketing and building his own unlimited guns in 6.5BC, 7BC and .30BC, and serving as Virginia's State Director and one of its top competitors.

TJ: Did you have any shooting experience prior to your involvement in metallic silhouette?

BC: Except for my time in the Marines, I was heavily involved in drag racing. My wife was the shooter, until the day I purchased a .44 Magnum. I loved the feeling. Recoil of the .44 is quite similar to the G-forces felt driving a super stocker off the line.

TJ: Given such variables as wind, light, temperature, power and accuracy, which is the greatest consideration in shooting silhouette?

BC: Wind causes few problems in the east, since most ranges are in forested areas. The wind does cause problems in the mid-west and west. If a range is built properly, facing north is of little consequence. Rather than a piecemeal isolation of factors the most important thing is the combination.

TJ: Combination?

recorded a 150 fps drop in muzzle velocity due to the cold.

That summer the question arose "What if only the primers were cooled?" So this time we chilled only the primers. We looked a bit silly holding ice cubes on cartridge bases but, the chronograph recorded a 100 fps drop in velocity. Apparently, temperature has a greater effect on the primer than the powder charge. Toting around a cooler full of warm bricks in winter is a bit inconvenient and in summer holding ice cubes on primers is just weird, but it did give us a basis for seasonally adjusting our powder charges. But again, I feel the biggest factor in the combination is the shooter. He's supposed to log those changes and compensate for them.

TJ: What do you feel is the optimum pistol and caliber combination to compete in Metallic Silhouette?

BC: In IHMSA Metallic Silhouette there really isn't The Best Gun, however, for the average shooter in Production or Standing, I'd say the best choice would be a 10 inch Contender chambered for 7-TCU, for reasons of a modest price and little felt recoil. The Merrill in .30 and 7mm Merrill is a super gun, although for the beginner the price is a bit steep.

SILHOUETTE CHAMPION:

Conversation with Boyd Carpenter

By Tim Johnson

Boyd Carpenter has those three elusive ingredients necessary to excel in Metallic Silhouette: determination, consistency and realistic goals.

"Some folks will kill to win," says Boyd. "I just go out to shoot my 40. If it were possible to shoot a match having two to three hundred competitors, the same 20 people would occupy the top 20 spots on a daily basis for a month, only the positions would change. So I go out to shoot a 40, to get a chance to compete against those 20. I'd rather shoot a 40 and lose the shoot-off than a 39 and win!"

Unwavering in his support and promotion of shooting steel IHMSA-style, yet more than willing to give credit to others is characteristic of Boyd. In a three year period competing in 213 matches Boyd scored: 79-1st place, 59-2nd place, 43-3rd place and 15-4th place wins, with an average of: 37.8 in Production, 39.2 Unlimited, 22.2 Standing and 34.5 Revolver.

He was a member of IHMSA's All-American team from 1981-1983, of the 100 Club with a 109 aggregate, of the 140 Club with a 142 aggregate. He worked directly with Interarms on the development of their Virginia Dragoon silhouette pistols. More

BC: The combination is the shooter, gun and ammunition acting as a unit. Anything that changes the combination is detrimental to good shooting. Yes, temperature changes the combination. Our tests have shown a .44 Mag load of a 240 grain bullet with 23 grains of WW296 to be a good load at 90 degrees. To equal the velocity and group at 50 degrees the charge has to be increased to 24 grains. When it gets down to 30 degrees, the charge has to be increased to 25 grains. This is a definite overload by the book, however, the velocities and therefore pressures are the same due to the change in temperature.

TJ: Tell us about your "hot box."

BC: Knowing full well that temperature affects trajectory by increasing or decreasing pressure, Bob Engle and I constructed a little experiment. One winter, Bob took some bricks and heated them and lined the bottom of a cooler with them. The outside temperature was 20 degrees, inside the cooler and was a warm 75 degrees. We assembled our gear—the chronograph and the cooler holding our guns and ammunition and proceeded to the range. We fired to establish our basis of comparison, then left the guns and ammo outside to cool. When we repeated the test the chronograph

In revolvers, I prefer the .357 Super Mag. cartridge and my gun is a Seville. The .44 Virginia Dragoon silhouette pistols were also extremely well made. At first, the pundits at Interarms thought that simply installing good sights and a longer barrel would make the Dragoon a good silhouette gun. It didn't! They realized the error and really tightened up their quality control. Later, guns were actually custom built having the same technicians who assembled the guns test fire them. They had to shoot within a three inch circle at 50 meters with factory ammo or they were not released.

The .375 Super Mag. looks good, but it is open to debate if the increased power is worth the increased recoil. I build my own Unlimited guns, so my opinion may be a bit prejudiced, however, I will say they now are all good.

When first released, the Wichita left a bit to be desired, but it's as good as any now that they've worked the bugs out. My preference would be a rebuilt XP using an air gauged bench rest rifle barrel. Again, there is a price factor to be considered between a \$600 to \$900 custom gun versus a \$300 Super 14.

Continued on page 79

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The AYOOB FILES

PURSUIT OF AN ARMED ROBBER: THE BROOKER CASE

Situation: Robbed and terrorized by a criminal with a .38, a victim gives chase with a shotgun.

Lesson: It may be legal to pursue a felon with a view to citizen's arrest, but it's not always wise.

October 3, 1986. It's almost 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon and Bill Brooker is in a TGIF mood. His tiny office, Brooker Properties in Homestead, Florida has been a madhouse. Bill manages a large number of apartments, and today is rent collection day. In addition to taking money and giving receipts, he and his secretary give the tenants the courtesy of cashing their paychecks. The several thousand dollars in folding green stashed in the little cashbox always makes him nervous. Homestead and adjoining Florida City are both exurbs of crime-ridden Miami, after all. But, why worry? There's never been a robbery at the office.

Until now.

Someone is at the locked security door of the small office. Brooker sits at his desk attending to paperwork as his assistant Sarah Boleware goes to the door. The tall black woman finds herself looking down at a short, wiry black man who asks about a 10th Avenue apartment. Through the mesh screen of the security door, Ms. Boleware replies that it won't be ready for occupancy for another couple of weeks. The compact man in faded jeans and beige T-shirt asks for a phone number so he can call back. Sarah Boleware reaches for a business card and unlocks the security door to hand it to him.

And then she sees the gun. It's a Charter Arms stainless Undercover revolver with a two-inch barrel, concealed until now in a yellow hand towel behind the gunman's back. He shoves it through the open door with his left hand, into her face, and screams, "Get over there! This is a stick-up! Get over there!"

Brooker is only feet away. He hears the cry, and it occurs to him to go for the five-inch barrel Smith & Wesson Model 10 .38 revolver he keeps in a drawer behind his desk. But it's an aching long reach for the gun, and now it's already too late because the little robber has burst through the door and has his own .38 Special inches from Brooker's forehead. "This is a stick-up! Get up!"

Resistance would be suicide. Worse, thinks Brooker, it could get his faithful employee murdered along with him. He obeys the manic criminal's orders and lies on the floor next to Boleware, his arms extended, face down. He is wondering if he will ever see his wife and children again.

He has good reason to worry. The man with the gun is Terry Johnson and though only in his early twenties, he already has the proverbial "record as long as your arm," a rap sheet that extends from shoulder to fingertip when you unfurl the printout, and laced with crimes like armed robbery and aggravated assault. As his free hand roams across the desk seeking the cashbox, Johnson yells, "Don't look around, motherf**ers, or I'll blow your motherf**in' brains out!"

Brooker believes him with all his heart. There is angry rage in the gunman's voice. And Brooker knows that the shiny snubnose revolver is loaded. His strongest memory of having the gun pointed at him will always be the bullet noses peeking at him out of the chambers, some hollowpointed and some solid.

And now, the horror grows worse. Johnson sets down the cashbox and kneels next to the two victims, pawing them roughly as he gutturally repeats his threat to "blow their brains out." Brooker can feel Sarah Boleware next to him, trembling violently and uncontrollably, and for the first time fear gives way to anger. This good woman has done nothing to this man, nothing at all to deserve the mind-numbing terror the gunman is inflicting on her. Brooker scarcely feels the ripping pain as Johnson tears a gold chain off his neck.

The gunman grabs the cashbox and heads for the door. He comes face to face with Samuel Allen, a black employee of Brooker Properties. Johnson levels the gun at him and snarls, "Nigger, run!"

Allen runs. The fearful words that echo in his mind are not the threat directed at him, but the sentence he heard Johnson coldly utter a moment earlier as he pointed his gun at the heads of the white man and the black

Continued on page 89

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Beretta Compacts	15 rounds	MAS 9115
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TEST REPORT



BURRIS 2½ x 7 PISTOL SCOPE

By John Taffin

Shooters are always looking for that elusive all-around gun, the one that will do everything. Riflemen try to make the .30-06 into the all-around rifle, and although it is probably too heavy for varmints and too light for large game, it is often successfully pressed into service for both.

With handguns, it becomes a little more difficult to find that all-around candidate. I thought I'd found one a few years ago, at least one that would be just the ticket for everything from varmints to coyotes to antelope and even up to deer.

The handgun is the Thompson/Center Contender fitted with a custom SSK .257 JDJ barrel. Based on the .225 Winchester necked up to .257" and blown out to provide maximum case capacity, the 14-inch barreled .257 is capable of muzzle velocities of 2800 fps with a 75 grain bullet and 2400 fps with a 120 grain bullet.

Mounting a 4x LER scope on the .257, I took a deer at 175 yards with the first shot. I had my all-around handgun. Well, at least for everything up to our Western mule deer.

Then I took the .257 on its first varmint safari, a quest for eastern Idaho chucks that live up in the rimrock country where 300 yards is a short shot and 400+ yard shots are more likely to be afforded.

That first chuck hunt proved to me how inadequate the 4x scope was even though it was a top quality LER scope. Those chucks would lay down on the rocks with just the top of their head showing and I could not pick them up with my scope.

My partner was shooting a .223 Contender with a 7x Burris scope and I spent the

day shooting chucks, not with the .257/4x combination, but by sharing the .223. The .257 would do the job, the 4x scope would not.

What I needed was a 7x Burris LER scope on the .257, but then I would no longer have a handgun for deer, as 7x is a little too much scope for deer hunting. I even toyed with the idea of having two scopes that I could switch back and forth from deer season to varmint season.

Fortunately, Burris has now solved the problem with the introduction of the new 2½x-7x LER Handgun Scope. Mounting the new Burris scope on my .257 JDJ gives me the option of using 4x or even lower for deer and I can go to a full 7x (6.7x if one wants to split hairs) by simply turning the adjustment knob on the rear of the Burris scope.

After I mounted the 2½x-7x on my .257 and sighted it in with the lowest power setting, my immediate concern was whether or not all settings on the scope dial would still see the .257 shoot to the same point of impact. I shot groups using each of the marked power settings on the Burris scope: 2½, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. In each instance the point of impact was the same. There would be no problem changing from one power setting to another.

The scope also has the parallax adjustment built-in, which is adjusted by turning the front of the scope. The PA Model is marked with yardage adjustments of 25, 50, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, and infinity.

This makes the 2½x-7x Burris scope a natural for NRA Hunter Pistol and IHMSA Field Pistol as well as for hunting of big game and varmints.

The Burris 2½x-7x is a large scope measuring 12-inches in length and weighing 12.5 ounces without mounts and rings. It is really a combination LER (long eye relief) and IER (intermediate eye relief) scope as the eye relief for the 2½ power setting is 11-28", while when set at 7x the eye relief is only 9-14". Field of view at 100 yards for the 2½x setting is 12 feet, and this drops to 7.5 feet with the 7x setting. This would seem to make the 7x setting best when shooting from a rest.

I now have an excellent scope and handgun

Continued on page 75

Remington

NOTE: This is not Loaded Ammunition
MIDWAY PAYS THE POSTAGE

Bulk Packed

	Per 500	Per 1000
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
243/6MM 80 GR. HP	36.95	67.50
243/6MM 80 GR. PSP	30.75	55.75
243/6MM 100 GR. PSP	34.50	62.75
25/20 CAL. 86 GR. SP	31.50	57.50
25 CAL. 87 GR. HP	34.75	63.25
25 CAL. 100 GR. PSP	34.50	62.75
25 CAL. 120 GR. PSP	37.25	67.75
6.5 MM 120 GR. SP	37.25	67.75
270 CAL. 100 GR. PSP	34.50	62.75
270 CAL. 130 GR. PSP	37.75	68.75
270 CAL. 130 GR. BRONZE PT.	56.95	104.50
7MM 150 GR. PSP	40.25	73.50
7MM 175 GR. PSP	42.95	78.75
30/30 CAL. 150 GR. SP	38.95	70.95
30/30 CAL. 170 GR. SP	40.75	74.50
30 CAL. 125 GR. PSP	37.50	68.50
30 CAL. 150 GR. PSP	40.25	73.50
30 CAL. 150 GR. BRONZE 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. BRONZE PT.	61.75	113.95
32/20 CAL. 100 GR. SP	34.50	62.75
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38 Super	223 Rem.
38/357	30 M1 Carbine
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41 Mag	7.62 x 39

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22 Hornet	12.50	46.50	30 M1 Carbine	10.95	40.95
22 Remington Jet	12.50	46.50	30 Remington	16.75	67.75
221 Rem. Fireball	16.50	66.00	30/30 Winchester	16.75	67.75
222 Remington	15.00	61.00	350 Savage	19.95	84.50
223 Remington	16.50	66.00	350 Krag	19.95	84.50
222 Rem. Mag.	15.75	62.50	308 Winchester	19.95	84.50
22-250 Remington	17.95	74.25	30/06 Springfield	19.95	84.50
220 Swift	19.95	84.50	300 H&H Mag.	25.50	110.50
243 Winchester	18.95	77.25	300 Win. Mag.	24.95	108.75
6mm Remington	18.95	77.25	303 British	20.25	85.50
25/20 Winchester	12.50	46.50	32-20 Winchester	12.50	46.50
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BULLETS

	Per 500	Per 1000	Case Price
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25 Auto 50 GR. FMJ (Rem.)	\$21.50	\$38.25	N/A
32 Auto 71 GR. FMJ (Rem.)	24.50	43.95	N/A
380 Auto 88 GR. JHP (Rem.)	26.50	47.50	N/A
380 Auto 95 GR. FMJ	20.95	37.75	\$148.75/4430
9mm Luger 115 GR. JHP (Rem.)	28.95	52.75	N/A
9mm Luger 115 GR. FMJ	23.25	41.75	136.50/3660
9mm Luger 124 GR. FMJ	24.25	44.25	133.25/3390
38/357 110 GR. JHP	25.50	46.25	157.50/3820
38/357 125 GR. JHP	23.95	43.25	129.95/3360
38/357 140 GR. JHP (Rem.)	29.50	53.50	N/A
38/357 158 GR. JHP	28.25	51.50	123.50/2660
38 Super 130 GR. FMJ (Rem.)	27.25	48.95	N/A
41 Mag. 200 GR. JHP (Rem.)	41.25	75.25	N/A
41 Mag. 210 GR. JHP (Rem.)	42.25	77.50	N/A
44 Mag. 180 GR. JHP (Rem.)	39.95	73.50	N/A
44 Mag. 240 GR. JHP (Rem.)	43.85	80.95	N/A
45 Auto 185 GR. JHP (Rem.)	43.25	79.25	N/A
45 Auto 185 GR. FMC (Rem.)	43.25	79.25	N/A
45 Auto 230 GR. FMJ	37.50	68.55	113.75/1830
223 55 GR. FMJ (BT-WCannelure)	15.95	28.50	126.25/5000
22 Cal. 55 GR. Pointed Soft Pt.	26.75	46.50	314.50/7640
30 Carbine 110 GR. SP (Rem.)	25.95	46.95	N/A
30 Carbine 110 GR. FMJ (Rem.)	25.95	46.95	N/A
308-30/06 147 GR. FMJ (BT-WCannelure)	37.25	67.95	173.95/2860

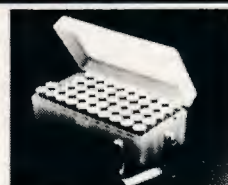
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	Per 500	Per 1000
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38 Special	36.95	66.95
357 Magnum	35.25	63.85
38 Super	56.75	104.50
10mm Bren Ten	48.50	88.95
41 Magnum	48.50	88.95
44 Special	48.50	88.95
44 Magnum	48.50	87.95
45 ACP	44.25	80.75
45 Long Colt	48.50	88.95
25 Auto (Remington Brand)	33.95	61.50
32 Auto (Remington Brand)	34.50	62.80
32 S&W Long (Remington Brand)	34.50	62.80
357 Maximum (Remington Brand)	46.75	85.00
44/40 Win. (Remington Brand)	61.95	112.75
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Minimum order 50 boxes of one size. Order in increments of 50 boxes.



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CB-05	233 (50 round)
CB-06	41/44 Mag. 45 L.C. (20 round)
CB-07	41/44 Mag. 45 L.C. (50 round)
CB-08	45 ACP (50 round)
CB-09	308 and 243, etc. (20 round)
CB-10	30/06, 7mm Mag, 300 Win Mag, etc. (20 round)

Prices	
100-400	\$28.75 Per 100 postpaid
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Carbine Sizer only, pistol calibers	13.50
Carbine Sizer only, 30 Carbine	19.65

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*221 Fireball	*7mm TCU	*300 H & H	38 Super & 38
222 Rem	7mm Exp (280)	300 Win Mag	ACP
223 Rem	*7mm Wad Mag	*300 Wad Mag	380 Auto
22/250	7mm/08	*77 Jap	38 S&W
*220 Swift	7mm Rem Mag	8x57	9mm Luger
243 Win	*7.62x39 Russian	338 Win Mag	38/357
250 Savage	*7.62x54 R Russian	35 Rem	357 Maximum
257 Roberts	30/30 Win	*375 Win	41 Magnum
25/06 Rem	30/40 Krag	*4440 WCF	41 Action Exp
*6.5 Jap	303 British	*444 Marlin	44 Spl/Mag
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270 Win	300 Savage	25 ACP	45 Colt
*270 Wea	*7.65 Arg Mau	32 ACP	30 M1 Carbine

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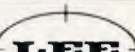
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Kent Miller and his MercComp

By Lee Schaffert

Before Kent Miller started building his MercComp Combat Carry Guns, combat shooters and undercover law enforcement officers who wanted a relatively small .44 Magnum revolver for double action shooting had few options. About a year and a half after turning to gunsmithing professionally, Kent began to develop a trademark gun that would showcase his skill and at the same time fill a void in the custom gun market. His goal was a big bore magnum that was compact to carry and controllable to fire fast.

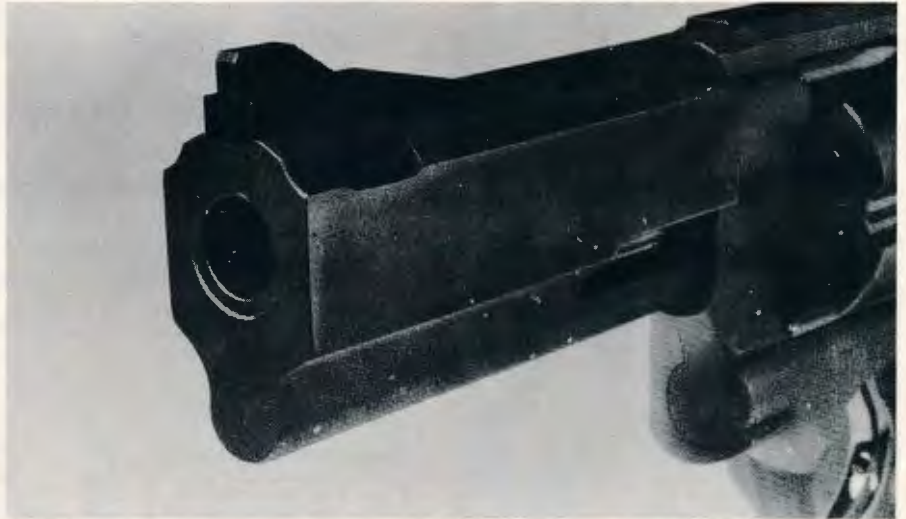
Like many of today's best pistolsmiths, Kent is self-taught. He began with the fundamentals—or maybe even a little more basic than that.

"When I got my first lathe," Kent recalls, "I didn't know how to turn the thing on." But after he found the switch, he spent every moment of free time over the next six years mastering the tools of his craft while continuing to work an eight to five job.

Kent decided on a career change when he realized he was putting in as much time on gunsmithing as he was on his full-time job—Quality Control Inspector at a nuclear power plant under construction. Working in the exacting world of nuclear construction reinforced Kent's belief that the only way to do a job is to do it right, and the right way is the way he approaches every gun he works on.

The MercComp is a model of innovation,

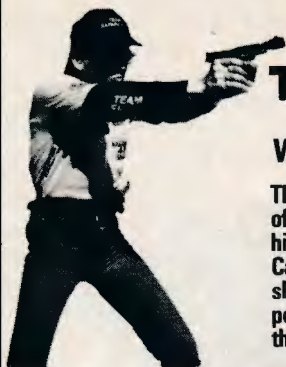
Continued on page 99



MercComp has two ports above an efficient expansion chamber. Additionally, the "mercury suppressor" is housed in a custom barrel underlug. Together the comp and the mercury reduce recoil.



Miller's MercComp features an interchangeable front sight held in place with a set screw. Note the expansion chamber ports.



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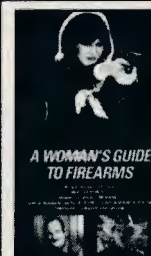
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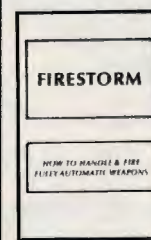
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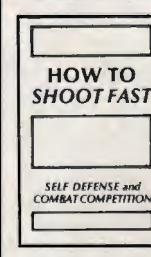


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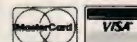
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Intratec TEC-38



FIE D86

DYNAMITE DERRINGERS

Two new derringers offer high-tech materials and advanced engineering. The FIE Model D86 and the TEC-38 both fire the .38 Special with two innovative new trigger mechanisms.

By J.B. Wood

By definition, they are small handguns of relatively large caliber with a capacity of one to four rounds. There were earlier guns in Europe that fit this description, but Henry Deringer of Philadelphia was the source of their common name, with an added "R" separating the generic term from the original. Of the many that have been made, the .41 caliber two-shot Remington lasted longest—from 1866 to 1935. From the postwar years to the present, it has been the one most copied, and its design has been greatly improved by modern manufacturing.

The two recent derringers we're looking at here both owe something to the Remington heritage. One has the two superposed barrels, and the other has the same basic exterior design. Both guns are chambered for the .38 Special cartridge, and both, if Remington rounds are used, will also chamber the .38 Smith & Wesson round.

It is possible to use the .38 S & W cartridge in handguns chambered for the .38 Special round, if Remington ammo is used. The .38 S & W case has a slight taper. Average Winchester loads have a case diameter of .384" to .386", while Remington loads are .380" to .382" at the same points. SAAMI specs for .38 Special chambers are around .3809". Chambers, as you probably know, vary somewhat. In some handguns, the .38 S & W will slip right in. In others, a light polishing of the chamber or chambers will allow the use of the lower-powered round. In the case of the small and lightweight derringers, this is a useful thing to know.

Both, in spite of their small size, are examples of brilliant engineering.

The F.I.E. Model D86 has more of the traditional Remington appearance, but



The D86 opens in the time-honored Remington fashion.

the lower barrel is now closed off, and the front of it is curved gracefully to the underside of the single barrel on top. The chamber of the lower barrel is still there, and it serves as storage space for an extra round. The manual ejector on the left side lifts both rounds for removal. The barrel unit swings upward in the time-honored fashion for loading, and it is secured by the familiar pivoting lever on the right side.

Those who know the original Remington and its later copies will remember that the hammer has three positions—fully down, on a safety step, and fully cocked. The new D86 has only two hammer positions—full cock, and down. And yet it can be safely carried with the chamber loaded and the hammer down.

The way this is accomplished is with a neatly engineered variation of a transfer bar. There is a deep recess at the top of the hammer, and the bar is forced upward to fill this space only when the trigger is fully depressed.

When the hammer and trigger are both "at rest," the head of the firing pin is not only out of contact with the hammer, it is shielded from external impact by the hammer itself. It's a beautiful system.

The hammer has good leverage, and its deeply-grooved spur makes cocking easy. The trigger pull of my gun is quite stiff, as is usually the case in small guns of this type.

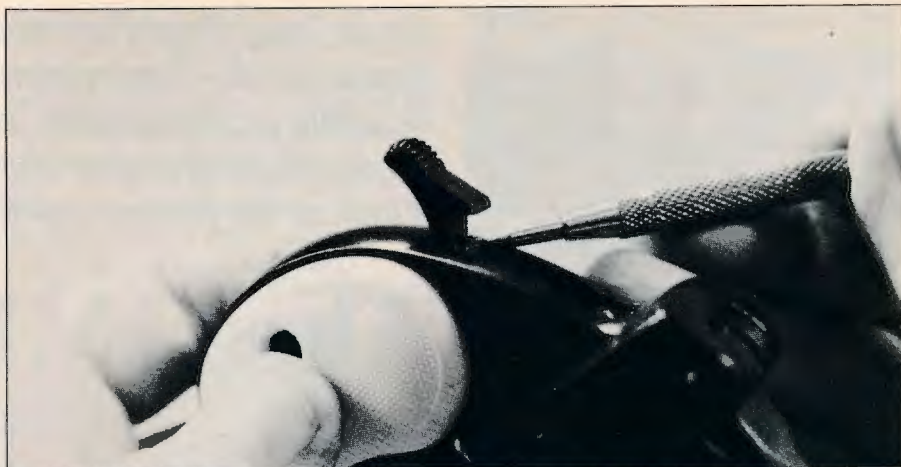


The barrel unit swings outward and upward for loading.

The sights are not likely to be used, but they are not bad. The front sight is a tapered post, integral with the barrel. The rear sight is a simple square-bottomed V-groove cut in the top of the barrel hinge.

The D86 has a black-anodized alloy frame, and the barrel unit and other steel parts are finished in matte blue. The grips are white plastic with fine moulded checkering, a nice contrast with the dark finish. The gun is also available in *Dynachrome*, which resembles satin nickel, and wood grips are also offered at slight extra cost. The fit and finish of my D86 are excellent, better than you might expect in a gun of modest price.

At the range, I tried the little gun with moderate .38 Special loads, and with Remington .38 Smith & Wesson rounds. The felt recoil was not unpleasant, and the accuracy



In the F.I.E. derringer, the transfer block indicated by the tool rises to fill the hammer recess when the trigger is fully depressed.

F.I.E. Model D86

Weight:	12 ounces
Length:	4 ³ / ₄ inches
Height:	3 ¹ / ₄ inches
Width:	1 inch
Barrel length:	2 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ inches

Suggested retail price:	\$89.95 (either finish)
	\$94.95 (with wood grips)

Manufacturer: F. I. E. Corporation
4530 N.W. 135th Street
Opa-Locka, Florida 33054

unit. A spring-powered plunger in the frame engages an angled track on the underside of the lower barrel, and the unit is simply turned to over-ride this tension. The barrel track also mates with curved lugs on the frame for extra strength. When the barrels are snapped into place, the lock-up is solid and firm. The hinge for the barrel unit is at upper left, and when the unit is swung out leftward, there is ample clearance for easy loading. The ejector has a large button that is domed and concentrically ringed, and the cartridges or fired cases are easily pushed out.



The tool is pointing to the trigger-blocking grip safety pedal. It effectively prevents trigger movement unless the gun is gripped properly.

was adequate for the intended close-range self-defense use.

The Intratec TEC-38 has the superposed barrels of the old Remington, and a similar ejector, but there is nothing else that resembles it. This is a high-tech double action with a short-stroke sliding trigger, and the materials are definitely space-age. The barrel unit and firing components are steel, but the main portion of the rear body is enveloped in a grip of tough plastic. Instead of swinging upward for loading, the barrel unit pivots up to the left.

There is no separate latch for the barrel

Intratec TEC-38

Weight:	13 ¹ / ₂ ounces
Length:	4 ⁵ / ₈ inches
Height:	3 ³ / ₈ inches
Width:	1 ⁵ / ₁₆ of an inch
Barrel length:	2 ⁷ / ₈ inches

Suggested retail price	\$114.95
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Manufacturer: Intratec USA, Inc.
11990 S.W. 128th Street
Miami, Florida 33186

The sliding trigger moves between projections on the frame, and its travel is only ⁵/₁₆ of an inch. The trigger pull is relatively heavy,

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Meet the "Omega Man," Josef Peters.

A great deal of attention has been focused lately on a new multi-caliber system for the 1911 pistol. By fitting a new slide to a Government Model frame, a shooter has only to change barrels and magazines and can have as many as five different calibers.

The concept is currently being marketed in the USA by Springfield Armory of Geneseo, Illinois under the name "Omega." Since Charles Petty is covering the mechanics of the Omega in the accompanying article, I won't go into a great deal of detail on the pistol.

The ideas for this concept and pistol originated in West Germany and to get an inside look at the development of this pistol, I was able to visit the factory and to meet the inventor, Herr Peters.

Franz Josef Peters was born and raised in the town of Paderborn, West Germany. Located about 200 miles northeast of Frankfurt, this picturesque town was founded by Carl the Great in the year 777! Today, Paderborn exceeds 150,000 people and is the home of the Peters Stahl Co. (Stahl is the German word for steel and is not the owner's surname

Franz Josef Peters invented the Omega switch-caliber system for the Government Model. With typical Teutonic craftsmanship, each Omega unit is carefully produced on the latest high-tech machinery. Here's a look at the factory and the guns of

The OMEGA Man

By Sam Baiocco

since nothing was available, he decided to make his own. The unit was successful enough to warrant a demand and so he started limited production on these units. As the idea grew in popularity, he started to add other .22 caliber conversion units for other pistols. Soon, he was manufacturing units for over 10 different pistols. (Conversion units are very popular in Germany, because German law restricts individuals as to how many pistols they can own. By keeping the basic frame and adding conversion units, the individual has one pistol registered, but in reality can own several pistols depending on how many conversion units he can fit to the pistol.) By late 1982, the demand for the conversion units was strong enough to allow Peters to switch over entirely to the firearms business.

The year 1985 saw the business successful enough to try new endeavors. An idea for a 9mm conversion unit for the Gov't 1911 .45 was originated. This idea also proved popular and it too went into production. Demand was strong because of the availability of 9mm ammo throughout Europe.

It was from this 9mm conversion unit that the multi-caliber concept originated. In 1986, the 9mm unit was converted to shoot .38

the different size cases. By early 1987, the new slides with the dual extractors were perfected and the first multi-caliber pistol was introduced. The 10mm cartridge was added later in the year, thus making it a 5-in-1 multi-caliber system.

The marketing problem of introducing Peters' multi-caliber units to the USA was solved by forming an alliance with the Springfield Armory. Springfield currently manufactures their own Gov't 1911 pistol including many accessories. Under the agreement, Springfield has the exclusive market for Peters products in the USA and, naturally, the Peters Stahl Co. has exclusive marketing rights for Springfield products in Germany and Europe. This allows for Peters to ship his completed slides, barrels and mag-

A novel conversion unit for the M1911 pistol transforms old slab-sides into a modern marvel of German engineering, the multi-caliber conversion by Peters-Stahl of Paderborn, West Germany.

The Peters unit uses a clever recoil spring guide to mate with the barrel lug and provide

Springfield Armory is fitting the new Peters-Stahl switch caliber unit to Government Model frames. An ingenious new locking system and a built-in compensator are unique features of this multi-caliber 10mm, .45 and .38 Super.



Barrels are milled from round bar stock with over 90% waste.

as some people think.)

Joe Peters learned the tool and die trade in the mid-70s and after serving a four year hitch in the German Air Force, returned to Paderborn and founded the Peters Steel Co. The company specialized in making machined parts for heavy machinery until 1982 when Peters' love for firearms led to his company changing over to the gun business.

Peters wanted a .22 caliber conversion unit for his Browning Hi Power pistol, and

wadcutter and then .38 Super. These calibers all used the same lock-up system, and needed only one extractor because only one size rim had to be extracted.

The idea to grasp larger cases led to the dual extractor system currently in use today. A great deal of time was spent on developing the dual extractor system and particularly the springs used by the extractors. It was mostly trial and error, until the right combination was found that enabled the extractors to grasp

a lockup with mating flat surfaces instead of the traditional Browning lugs. The slide had a pivoting extractor that allows for differences in rim diameters and accommodates any cartridge from 9mm to .45 ACP. The Omega unit from Springfield Armory is slightly changed from the prototype I saw two years ago and the single, top-mounted extractor has been replaced by a pair situated on either side

azines to Springfield for fitting to frames.

The Peters factory features a large machine shop and a smaller final assembly shop. The machine shop does all the machine work for barrels, slides and frames on state-of-the-art computer controlled milling machines. Bluing and electric engraving of the slides are also done here. All of the proper fitting and final assembly of the pistols is done in the assembly shop by four gunsmiths.

The heart of the Omega system is the slide

assembly. Each slide starts out as a solid piece of forged steel blank. It first goes through a computer controlled milling machine that performs six operations at six different stations. Each station performs a different milling operation on the slide and it takes about 1½ hours for the slide to go through all six stations. It was interesting to note that 80% of the initial piece of forged steel was milled away as the finished slide emerged.

Other machines then drill the hole for the

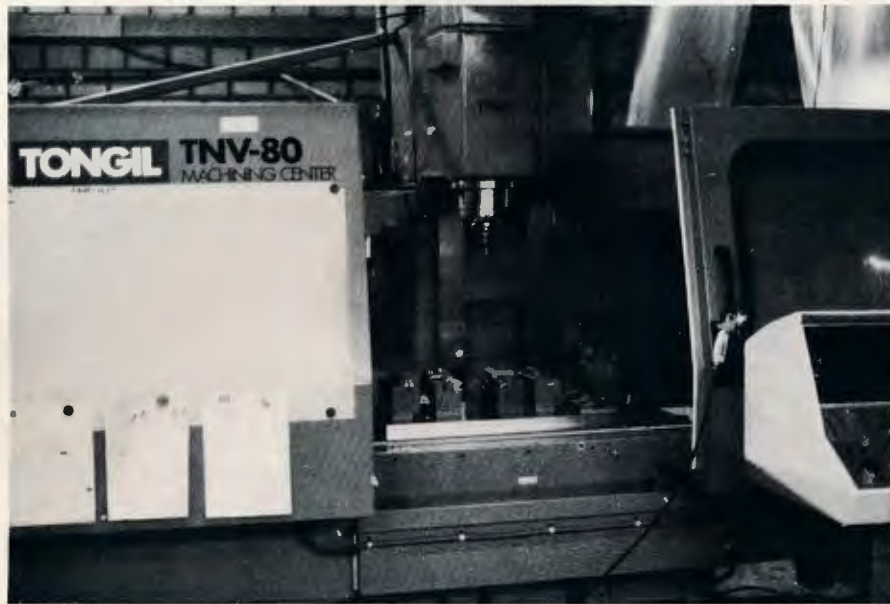
recoil spring guide and also make an angular cut so that the barrel can engage the slide properly. Next, certain parts of the slide such as the locking area, hammer rails, and slide stop area are heat treated by an ultrasonic process. These wear points are hardened to about 62 Rockwells. The slides are then sent to a vibration grinding machine that rids the slide of any sharp edges or burrs.

Finally, the slide is bead blasted so it's ready for the final finish of the customer's choice. The finished slide now goes to the assembly shop for fitting. Production rates for these slides is 350 per month and all the work is done in the factory. Peters employs two shifts of nine men each for a total of 18 men working solely in the machine shop.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the important features of the Omega slide is the dual extractor system. This is a patented system that uses two spring loaded extractors to grab any size rim. Two allen screws on the top of the slide keep tension on the springs used by the extractors. The right extractor actually extracts the brass case and the left extractor guides the case to the ejector for positive ejecting. The angle on the left extractor is under 90 degrees so that it relieves the brass case from being hit by the ejector. The extractors and firing pins are made from the highest quality tool steel and, in addition, they are heat treated for durability.

Peters claims he has never experienced a broken firing pin in any of his slides. After a demonstration, I could see why! He placed a

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Computer controlled milling machines hold precise tolerances at the Peters Stahl factory where Omegas are made in Germany.

OMEGA

By Charles E. Petty



The Omega from Springfield Armory can be had with five or six inch barrels, ported or unported.

of the slide. The dual extractors serve to center the case in the slide and are the keys to caliber interchangeability.

The conversion consists of a slide and barrel which operate on a standard M1911 frame and give the shooter the choice of .38 Super, 10mm Auto and .45 ACP by simply changing the barrel and magazine. The recoil spring is the same for .45 and 10mm but it must be changed to a lighter weight for the

.38 Super.

The concept of multi-calibers on the same frame has always been appealing to a lot of American handgunners and, when one of those calibers happens to be the hottest topic in handguns right now, the 10mm Auto, I think it's fair to say that interest is high.

Springfield's plan is to offer either complete guns built on their frames or the customer may provide one, but the Omega units

will not be sold separately. They must be fitted by Springfield's gunsmiths and this cost is included in the price. A complete gun on Springfield's frame has a suggested retail price of \$849 in a single caliber or the conversion may be fitted to the customer's frame for \$663. Extra barrels (also fitted) are \$270. The changeover involves merely popping out the slide stop pin and removing the barrel. There is no separate bushing so the barrel just drops into the slide.

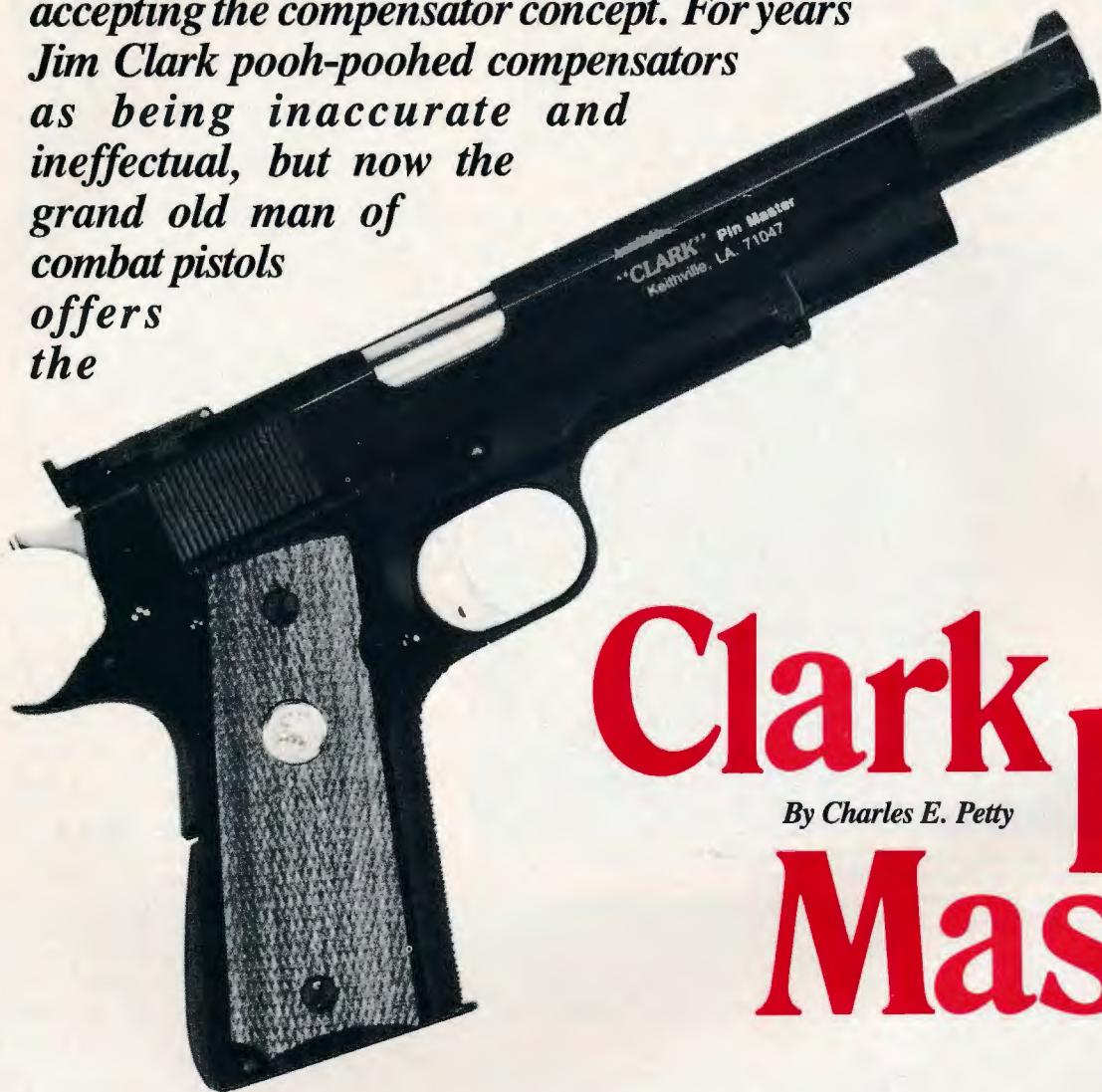
The Omega's sights are fully adjustable, although they lack the click stops a lot of us are used to. The front sight features interchangeable inserts. Three are available and the shooter may use either a ramp, patridge or there's a blank he can shape himself. The patridge front sight is my preference, but it also contributed to an early problem. In order to center hits on the target the rear sight had to be run almost to the top of its adjustment. A little judicious filing fixed the problem.

A word of warning here too. The front sight is held in place by a metric allen screw that tended to work loose until I applied some Locktite. It's truly disconcerting to find the front sight missing and I was lucky to find the tiny part in the grass.

The Omega features a hammer forged six-inch barrel with *polygonal rifling* and is available in either ported or unported form. The appearance is that of a longslide custom gun and matching ports are machined in the slide. My test gun was furnished with three

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The inventor of the pin gun finally comes around to accepting the compensator concept. For years Jim Clark pooh-poohed compensators as being inaccurate and ineffectual, but now the grand old man of combat pistols offers the



Clark Pin Master

By Charles E. Petty

Jim Clark has changed his mind. Until recently he believed that compensators were detrimental to accuracy and, based on his experience as a bullseye shooter and gunsmith, he was right.

Muzzle brakes for bullseye guns (the forerunners of compensators as we know them now) had been offered by Smith & Wesson, Ruger, High Standard and others. These were usually less than effective and almost always hurt accuracy. They were add-ons that clamped, somehow or another, to the muzzle and were more useful as lead accumulators than anything else.

When Clark and I last talked about this a couple of years ago, I did a little experiment (*American Handgunner* Sept/Oct, 1986) proving that properly installed comps don't hurt a thing. Frankly, I was surprised by the results for, like Jim Clark, I'm a veteran of the bullseye school and my experience with those muzzle brakes was less than

encouraging. If they helped it was purely because of the added weight making the gun a little more muzzle heavy.

That was also Clark's opinion about the early comps on IPSC and pin guns. I'd like to think Clark read the article, but testing by son Jim Jr. convinced him. The main thing is that he did change his mind and has a neat new comp to prove it.

The Pin Master's comp borrows from one of the earlier add-ons that were available from S&W and Ruger

some years ago and uses a sharply angled plane in the front of the comp as opposed to the more common right-angle shape. Clark calls it a "deflection chamber." There is no expansion chamber as we're used to, so the 45 degree angle of the deflection chamber vents gas forward and up.

For someone used to the other types, it's a little funny to see the smoke going forward. After a lot of rounds I've concluded that the effi-



ciency of the deflection chamber is equal to, or maybe just a tad better, than conventional right angle types. Admittedly this is a subjective judgment for there just isn't any way to quantitatively measure things like recoil and muzzle rise without test equipment far more sophisticated than stuff available in my shop.

The test gun is top of the line, with all the bells and whistles one could want, plus an extra added bonus. It is one of Clark's "combo" jobs and came with a 9mm barrel, also fitted with a Pin Master comp. At last, I've found something I like in 9mm! Do not misunderstand me, I am not talking about trying to make major with 9mm (something that borders on suicidal in my opinion) but shooting with PMC ball was really fun. There's virtually no recoil and it is an absolute joy to shoot.

There is a down side to all the fun, though. Clark's machine rest targets proved that even a well-accurized 9mm doesn't shoot up to bullseye standards. The 9mm group measured 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " for ten rounds at 50 yards while the .38 Super group was 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Where the 9mm will shine is in speed matches such as the Steel Challenge where power requirements are more lenient. IPSC shooters could do worse too, for the significantly lighter recoil really can help speed things up and someone who has trouble with recoil might find this to be just the ticket.

All the Pin Masters have Clark's extended feed ramp that he developed years ago for .38 Special conversions. These ramps have been gaining popularity and are, I think, just about mandatory for .38 Supers since they support a great deal more of the case than do conventional barrels. The ramp also eliminates the gap between barrel and frame to reduce the chance of feeding malfunctions.

The Pin Master also features his "slide guide." Look closely at the front of the frame, and you'll see a little hump and a couple of set

screws. Using the set screws it is possible to take up quite a bit of play when the gun is in battery while allowing a looser slide fit otherwise. Clark feels that this is useful for both accuracy and reliability. You can feel it engage by holding the slide back and rocking it as you allow it to go slowly into battery. There will be quite a bit of lateral slide movement until things, suddenly, lock up.

These are the major differences in the Pin Master, but the other things we often take for granted on a top of the line comp gun are there as well and deserve comment. Checkering on the front strap and mainspring housing is flawless and Clark told me that they have made fixtures that allow them to do checkering on a milling machine. The result is a precise, uniform 20 lpi pattern. Checkering over the mainspring housing is continued onto the frame to provide just a little more grip area.

The sample gun carries a finish that almost everyone assumed was stainless steel. It isn't. It's a specially polished hard chrome plating applied by Bob Cogan at Accurate Plating and Weaponry (1937 Calumet St., Dept. AH, Clearwater, FL, 33575).

The test gun was built on a Series 80 Colt, complete with firing pin safety and there is a distinctly different feel to the trigger as the

firing pin block lifts out of the way. It isn't particularly bothersome when you're slapping the trigger, but you can really feel it with a slow, controlled, squeeze. Of course, Clark can't disable the safety, so he offers Caspian Arms parts, that don't have the safety. The buyer can have a choice of the Colt name (and price) or the equally functionally Caspian Arms parts at a substantial saving.

Clark also pointed out a problem that exists with Colt guns that isn't well known. In order to get things to work right with the collet bushing, Colt has reduced the depth of the locking lugs in the slide. So, when a barrel is locked up properly, off center firing pin strikes are common. In some cases it can be bad enough to cause erratic ignition and, just to be sure ignition is reliable, Clark has relocated the firing pin hole slightly.

The basic Pin Master in 9mm, .38 Super or .45 ACP on a Colt gun is \$1370, but this does not include checkering or some other options that may be desirable. Since these are truly custom guns it is hard to quote prices, for each customer wants something just a little different so the best bet is to write for Clark's catalog and price list (Rt. 2, Box 22A, Dept. AH, Keithville, LA, 71047).

The new Clark gun has served me well

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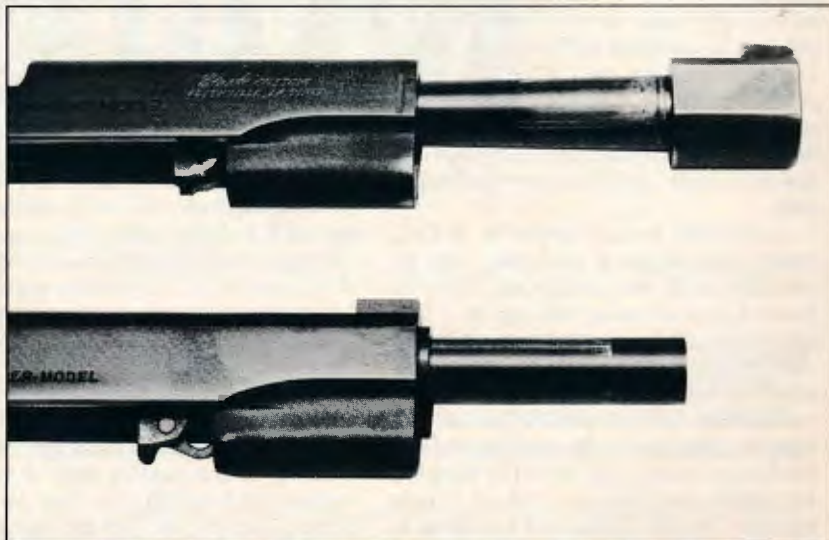
The author was impressed with the Pin Master. Here, at maximum recoil, the muzzle is still under control and has not risen more than a half to three-quarters of an inch. Impressive!



Clark is the inventor of the original Pin Gun (top) which is merely a heavy weight attached to a barrel. A plain barrel is shown for comparison.



Clark's expansion chamber compensator features a 45° angled deflection plate to channel gases upwards and forwards, thus defeating muzzle rise and felt recoil. It works, and well!



TAFFIN TESTS

In the 1860's, Colt found themselves stuck with cap and ball revolvers while Smith & Wesson was introducing the first big bore cartridge sixgun, the Model 3 First Model American. However, Colt only had to wait a few years for the Rolin White patent to expire before they could chamber for a centerfire cartridge. And when they did, they did it right bringing out a cartridge and a sixgun that are both still in existence.

1700 fps with 260 grain bullets in *properly chambered heavy duty revolvers!*

There are really five levels of revolvers chambered for the .45 Colt, thus we experience five levels of loading for the old .45. I've used them all and have never experienced any problems; *but* I also am careful to normally stay within the proper parameters when loading the .45 Colt.

The first level is that reserved for the Colt

the .45 COLT

The new sixgun was the Model P, the Colt Single Action Army and the cartridge was the .45 Colt. Now 115 years old, the .45 Colt remains a cartridge that refuses to die. In fact, it seems to go through regular periods of revival.

The Colt Single Action Army .45 died in 1941, but came back to life in 1955. The Colt .45 was taken out of production again in the early 1970's, came back again in 1978, and is now only available as a special-order item from the Colt Custom Shop.

But the cartridge, often referred to as the .45 Long Colt, is alive and well and living in Ruger Blackhawk and Bisley single actions, and Smith & Wesson and Dan Wesson double actions. And it is also being chambered in both oversize six shot cylinders and heavy duty five shot cylinders in custom Ruger Redhawks and Blackhawks. Not bad for a cartridge that has been around for over a century.

My first "modern" big bore sixgun was a brand new Colt seven and one-half inch barreled Single Action Army purchased in 1957 and I learned to reload for that revolver with a Lyman nutcracker, the #310 tong tool. It didn't take me long to realize that more modern reloading equipment was needed, but I will always have a warm spot in my heart for that first sixgun and those early reloading days.

A myth grew up early around the .45 Colt, namely that the brass was weak, and the cartridge itself was inaccurate. After 30 years of experimenting with the .45 Colt I can attest to the fact that with proper loads a .45 Colt sixgun will shoot right alongside any other big bore sixgun and the brass is no weaker than the cylinder of the gun that contains it. Older brass, the so-called balloon head brass, is weak and should be relegated to collections. Modern brass is strong enough—I've run Federal .45 Colt brass to

Single Action and the Smith & Wesson Model 25-5. For both of these fine *light duty* sixguns, the parameters are 260 grain bullets at 900-1000 fps. These loads are perfect for defense and certainly will do the job on close range deer and black bear.

Level two brings us to the Colt New Frontier. With its adjustable sights and heavy top strap, it is slightly stronger than Level One sixguns. Loading at this level consists mainly of 260 grain Keith semi-wadcutters at 1000-1100 fps, sometimes creeping up on 1200 fps.

Most loading manuals have a special section for Level Three, the Ruger Single Action Blackhawks and Bisleys chambered for the .45 Colt. For these guns, rather than simply pouring in more powder and raising the muzzle velocity of the 260 grain SWC's, I more often than not move up the weight scale and normally load bullets in the 300 grain weight range at 1200 fps. Now we have a sixgun that gives two capabilities: one for close range elk and the other for long range steel ram bustin'.

Also at this level is the Thompson/Center Contender. The ten-inch TC can be safely loaded to make the .45 Colt the equivalent of a long barreled .44 Magnum sixgun. Presently, T/C's only offering in the .45 Colt is the combination .45/.410 which is an excellent .410 but a mediocre .45 Colt. Since the chamber has to be three inches deep to accept the .410 shells, both accuracy and velocity of the .45 Colt suffer. Velocity will be less than in a 7½-inch barreled .45 revolver. Hopefully, T/C will eventually bring back the standard bull barrel in .45 Colt.

For most .45 Colt shooters, we are now at the top level of the .45 Colt. Brass will last virtually forever, well, at least until the necks wear out from expanding and crimping. But we have two levels left as we enter the custom world of the .45 Colt. I am fortunate to count

among my close friends two custom gunsmiths, Hamilton Bowen and John Linebaugh, both of whom specialize in converting smaller caliber Rugers to .45 Colt.

Now we are talking 260 grain cast bullets at 1600-1700 fps and 300 grain cast bullets at 1500-1600 fps. Remember, this is with standard .45 Colt brass that so many label as "weak." **THESE LOADS ARE FOR CUSTOM .45 COLT SIXGUNS ONLY.** Try to reach these levels in factory chambered .45's and the results will be disastrous.

The final level of loading for the .45 Colt is for use in the .454 Casull as manufactured by Freedom Arms. All of the experimental work for the .454 was done with .45 Colt brass and Dick Casull was getting 2000 fps with 230 grain bullets in the 1960's. I regularly use .45 Colt brass in a 4¾-inch Casull so I can crimp the long 325 grain Keith bullets in the crimping groove and not exceed the length that the Casull cylinder will accept.

There are some beautiful cast bullet designs available for the .45 Colt. An oldie, but still a goodie, is the Elmer Keith design from the 1920's. This is Lyman's #454424 casting out at 260 grains. This is a semi-wadcutter with maximum frontal area that delivers a great deal of energy to the target even at 900-1000 fps.

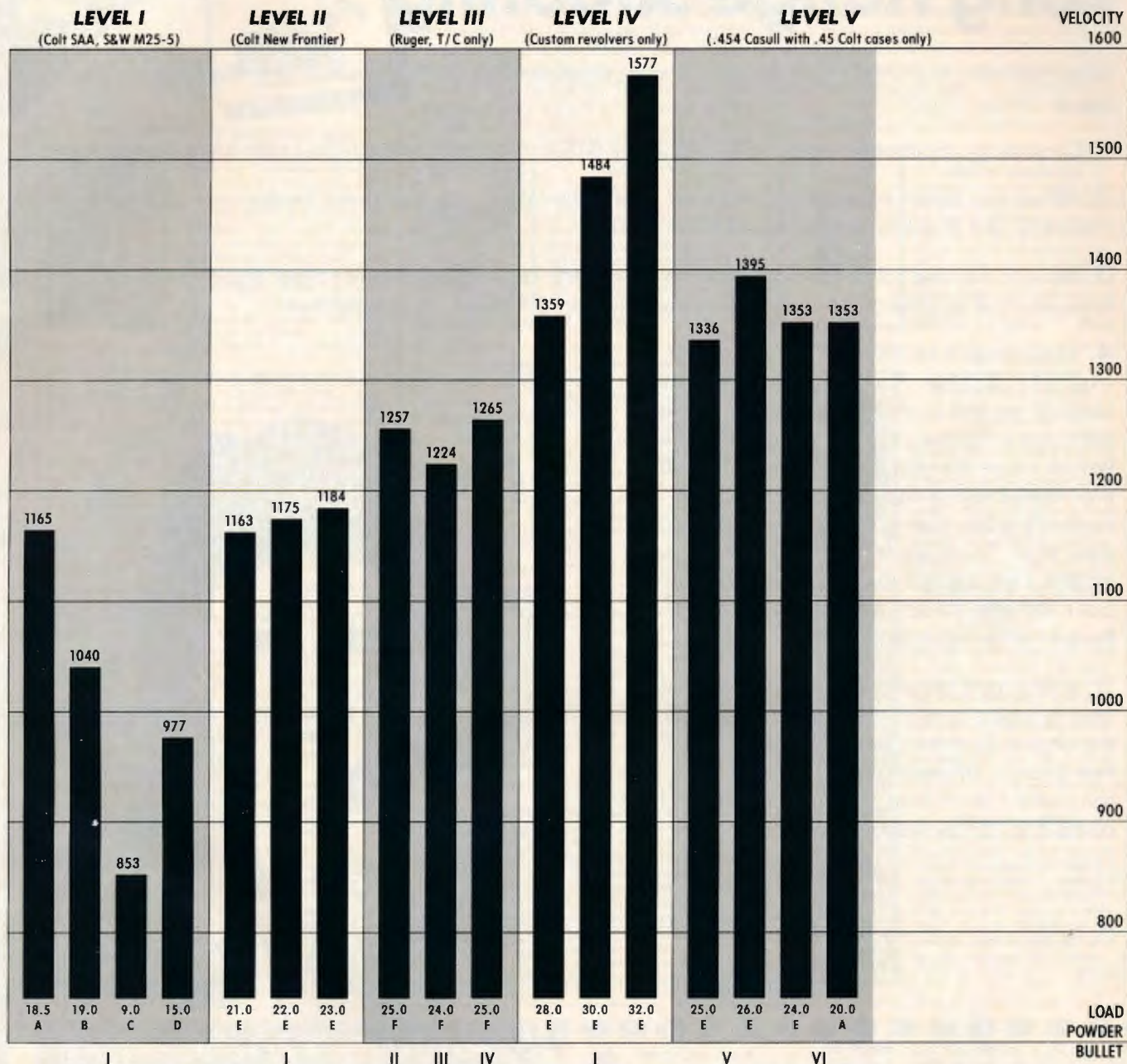
One of the problems associated with the loading of the .45 Colt with bullets in this weight range has been inaccuracy. The reason can be found quite easily when the loads are shot over a chronograph. Some powders are very erratic giving an extreme spread for five shots of 200 fps.

The case capacity of the .45 Colt case is such that trying to build 900-1000 fps loads with slow burning powders like #2400 and WW296 gives very poor results. I have had my best results with powders like Unique, WW231, and my particular favorite for standard .45 Colt loads, H4227. Results with 19.0-20.0 grains of H4227 are excellent accuracy-wise, probably because of the fact that H4227 bulks up nicely in the .45 Colt case leaving little room for air space.

I've been shooting this #454424 bullet for 20 years and just recently ran into trouble with it as some .45 Colt cylinders have come through on the short side and the bullets on loaded rounds stick out the front of the cylinder preventing cylinder rotation. When this happened on a Colt New Frontier, I had to find a new bullet and a call to Wes Kornele (Bullets By Bridges, PO Box 31742, Dept AH, Amarillo, TX, 79120) brought me hard cast 260 grain Hensley & Gibbs #502 bullets that have a slightly shorter nose and fit the cylinder perfectly. This bullet with 9.0-10.0

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FIVE LEVELS OF .45 COLT FAVORITE LOADS



POWDERS: (A) 2400, (B) H4227, (C) Unique, (D) H57, (E) WW296, (F) H110

BULLETS: (I) Lyman #454424 260 gr., (II) Sierra 240 gr. JHP, (III) Hornady 250 gr. JHP, (IV) Speer 260 gr. JHP, (V) NEI #310.451 310 gr., (VI) Lyman #457124 400 gr.

WARNING: EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE USED TO SELECT ONLY THOSE LOADS LISTED FOR THE HANDGUNS INDICATED IN THE FIVE LEVELS OF POWER. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD HOTTER LOADS FROM HIGHER LEVELS BE USED IN LOWER LEVEL HANDGUNS. SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY MAY RESULT. REPEAT: DO NOT USE THESE LOADS EXCEPT IN THE SPECIFIC HANDGUNS LISTED AS APPROPRIATE AT EACH LEVEL.

Neither the author nor American Handgunner assumes any responsibility for any results obtained with this handloading information due to the inherent variation in individual handloading techniques and the variation in component reloading parts.

MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

Jon Winokur's complete collection of **Master Tips** is available in a bound volume for \$11.95 plus \$1.50 postage from Gun Books, Dept. CH, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108. Calif. residents add 6.5% sales tax.

Long Range Shooting

When standing and shooting over long ranges, whether single or double handed, the basics of shooting are of utmost importance:

1. Consciously maintain a clear sight picture, and don't let your point of focus drift onto the target itself.
2. When you have a perfect sight picture, gradually apply pressure to the trigger and squeeze it back smoothly. The shot breaking should be a surprise.
3. Now comes the follow through: look at the sights, align them on the target again and take note of how you had to correct the gun; in this way you can determine your mistakes.
4. It's important to continue breathing as evenly as possible. Holding your breath too long causes you to shake and makes the sights look blurry. For me, the following works best: Before I raise the gun, I take a good breath in, then breathe out, then breathe in again normally while raising the gun over the top of the target. Then, while lowering it to my point of aim, I let out half the air in my lungs. At this point I'm very steady and generally hold my breath while squeezing the shot off.
5. A few long distance shots at the end of each practice session will help you consolidate the basics. Remember, too, that quality and not quantity of practice counts. It's better to fire ten perfect shots than a hundred done without complete concentration.



EDITH ALMEIDA, Ladies IPSC World Champion, 1979 and '81; Ladies Bianchi Cup Champion, 1980, '81 and '82; Ladies South African Champion, 1980 and '81.

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GEORGE HAYDUKE

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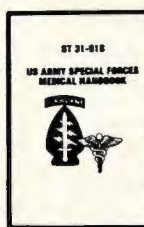
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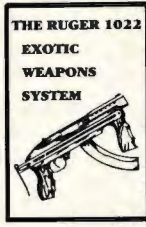
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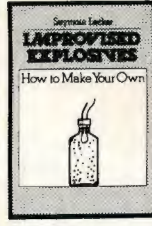
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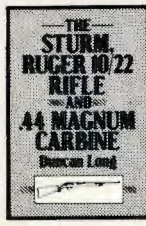
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TEST REPORT

I chose to have a go at testing Winchester's shotshell powder, 452AA, in the .357 Magnum. This powder has for several years been quite popular among IPSC shooters who use the .45 ACP. The reasoning among many was that if it was good medicine in the .45 it might also do well in other handgun rounds. Realizing, however, that 452AA is a

RELOADING WW 452AA IN .357 MAGNUM

By Dan Cotterman

fast burner—right up there with Bullseye, Trap 100, Red Dot, 700X and the like—the tendency was to use charges ranging from four to five or so grains in weight. Bullets from .357 Magnum hulls seemed to scatter, more like a pattern than a group.

The loads I tried were for my six-inch Ruger Security Six, a gun of commendable strength. Bullet weight with 452AA did not exceed 125 grains. Note, therefore, that this powder is too fast for heavier bullets in the .357 Magnum. The first load to be tested was 12.5/452AA/120 grain Speer JHP with a CCI

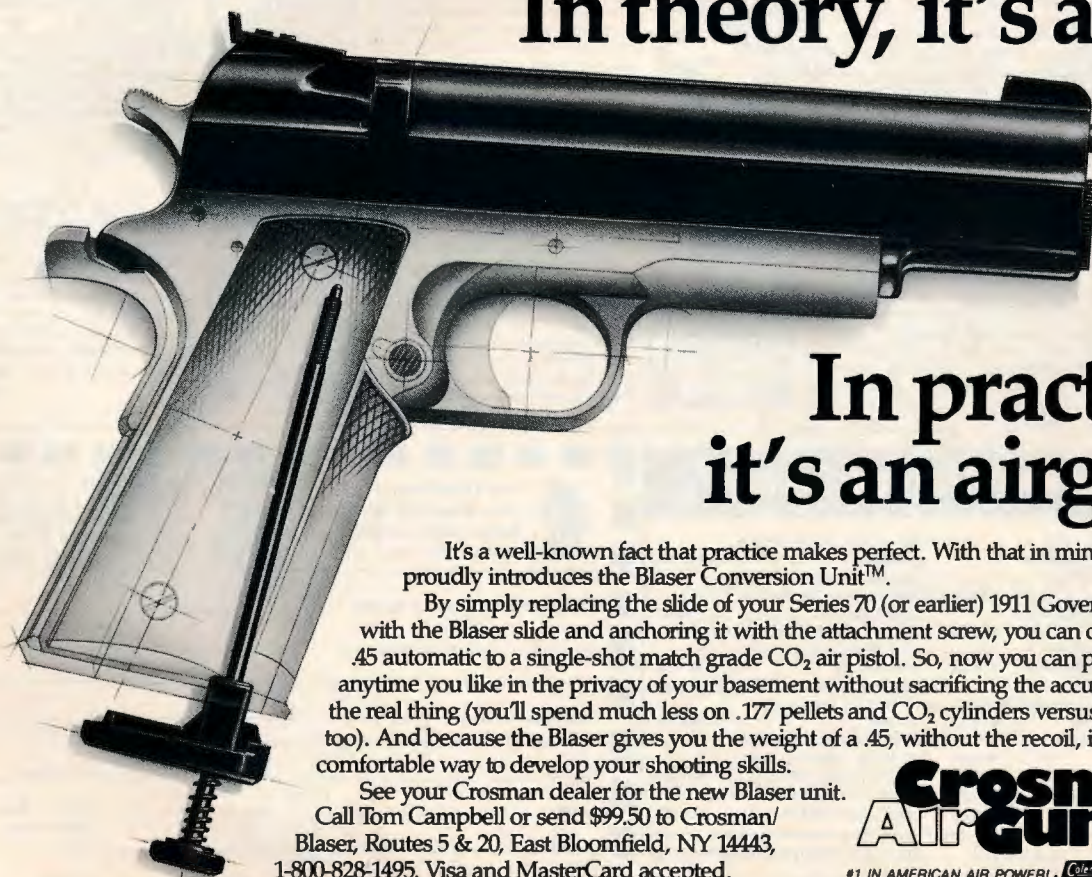
standard primer. Six-inch velocity averaged 1430 fps and 25-yard barrel-rest accuracy resulted in half a dozen five-shot groups of less than two inches. Stepping up to a heavier bullet, I tried 10.5/452AA/125 grain Speer JHP and a CCI standard primer. Velocity averaged 1255 fps, and group size was reduced to an average of 1¾ inches. As with 452AA in the .45, felt recoil seemed relatively low, although this is strictly a subjective observation.

The foregoing loads were taken from Spear's No. 11 reloading manual. If you don't have one of these, get it; it contains a number of shotshell powder loads for handguns. A couple of which involve Winchester's 473AA, for heavier bullets, in the .357 Magnum. I tested 8.8/473AA/140 grain Speer JHP and a CCI standard primer. Six-inch velocity averaged nearly what the book lists, at 1150 fps, but 25-yard accuracy amounted to just over two inches from my gun. Another load, 8.3/473AA/158 grain Speer JHP and the CCI standard primer, closed group average to less than two inches, but there was a little more kick. Again, this is subjective; it's hard to say for sure.

Throughout the tests, I noted no signs of excessive pressure: no case head expansion and only moderate primer flattening. These were not, however, the maximum 452AA and 473AA loads shown in No. 11



In theory, it's a .45.



In practice, it's an airgun.

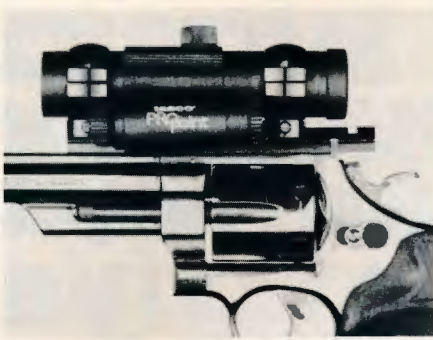
It's a well-known fact that practice makes perfect. With that in mind, Crosman® proudly introduces the Blaser Conversion Unit™.

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B-SQUARE NO-GUNSMITHING SCOPE MOUNT

for Smith and Wesson revolvers

By Charles E. Petty

Until now, if you wanted a scope on your Smith & Wesson revolver, your choices were limited and most involved drilling holes in the gun. Now B-Square has come up with another of their no-gunsmithing mounts that is deceptively simple.

In fact, when I first looked at it I wondered why nobody had thought of it sooner. The mount replaces the rear sight on all K, L and N frame S&Ws that have adjustable sights and makes use of the existing screw hole and the slot in the frame which secures the rear of the sight to provide the elevation adjustment.

The heart of the mount is a small key

which goes in the elevation screw slot of the gun. It is designed to absorb the recoil energy at the back of the gun and engages the base via a lug on the part that slips into the frame slot. It is held in place by a small set screw and the base itself attaches through the same hole with a larger screw.

Care must be taken to be sure that the key is fully seated in the slot on the frame or the front hole won't line up properly. This really isn't a problem at all and I found it easy to hold with my thumb while I tightened the set screw. Then there's a little plastic ball that goes on top to serve as a lock for both screws. Very clever.

At the front of the mount are two screw holes (to accommodate the two different screw locations found on various models). This is a tiny 3-56 screw and I'm sure a lot of folks will question if it is large, and strong, enough to handle heavy recoiling

cartridges like the .44 Magnum. Yes they are, for the screws don't do the work. The majority of recoil energy is taken by the lug at the back and the little screw doesn't really have that much to do. Since it is so small, though, I can foresee trouble for anyone who tries to over tighten it. A wave washer is provided and when the screw is tight enough to flatten the washer, it's tight enough. Overdo it, and the fine threads can be stripped.

The hardest part of the installation is getting the mount out of that devilish shrink wrap they use. It took about 30 minutes for me to put it on, but I spent a lot of that time studying how things lined up and where the forces went. Someone just putting it on could undoubtedly better my time. The base itself will accommodate Weaver style rings.

Continued on page 105

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Now 49 states recognize handguns as legitimate hunting weapons, although there are some mighty peculiar provisions in some regulations.

By James E. Fender

Brian C. Patterson of the US Coast Guard took this Alaskan caribou with a single shot from his .44 Magnum Contender.

HANDGUN HUNTING LAWS

Every state of our Union is free to establish its own laws regulating hunting within its borders, though the regulation of certain types of hunting, most specifically the hunting of migratory birds, must conform to requirements promulgated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. The methods of hunting and the means employed to hunt are within each state's authority to regulate.

Laws regulating hunting firearms established by a densely populated eastern seaboard state can and do differ substantially from the laws of a western state with a fraction of the population—and perhaps a different political philosophy.

Every state has a legislature which enacts the laws applicable to that state. This body of law is variously known as the state's Code, Statutes or General Laws. Some states have legislatures which jealously guard their prerogatives to regulate hunting and the use of firearms for hunting within those states' boundaries. Other states, though, may permit a commission to establish the requirements for hunting and specify the firearms which may be used. These requirements are technically known as "regulations" but even though established by a commission and not an elected legislature, they commonly have the force and effect of state law. Both state laws and regulations promulgated by a commission can pose problems for the unwary.

Let's look at some examples, and we'll begin by using Alabama simply because it is the first state in the alphabetical listing of states' names, and the first state, logically enough, whose hunting laws and regulations I researched.

The Code of Alabama indicated that any caliber of firearm (with no exception as to type of firearm) could be used for hunting as long as no prohibited ammunition such as teflon or brass bullets were used. However,

when the Alabama Regulations for Game, Fish and Fur Bearing Animals were consulted, I found that "handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition" were permitted for deer hunting.

"Great!" you say, "that's all I need to know." Not so fast. Suppose you want to hunt turkeys in Alabama. A look at the regulations pertaining to turkey hunting revealed that the handgun hunter can use only "handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition, open metallic sights only, no scopes" for hunting this grand and wily bird.

Suppose you want to hunt raccoon or

opossum at night? You can use shotguns with number six shot or smaller, and/or .22 caliber rimfire firearms. You can, therefore, use a .22 caliber handgun, as well as a rifle, but nothing larger.

Don't think you've found all that you need to know about hunting with a handgun in Alabama at this point. A little further along in the regulations you'll find that "the possession of firearms by bow hunters is prohibited." Suppose that you are a bow hunter who wants to strap on a pistol loaded with a cylinder of shot cartridges as preventative medicine just

Continued on page 108

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Game and Fish Division
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Montgomery, AL 36130
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ALASKA

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Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
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COR BON CUSTOM HANDGUN HUNTING BULLETS

By Cameron Hopkins

A new technology has dawned in bullet making, the chemically bonded core and jacket. Cor Bon Custom Bullets is on the cutting edge of this exciting new style of handgun hunting bullets.

Cor Bon Custom Bullets is an innovative new bullet maker specializing in slugs for the handgun hunter. Cor Bon utilizes the latest hunting bullet technology, "core bonding," which is the next quantum leap forward after the H-frame originated by RWS and better known in America as the "partition" construction.

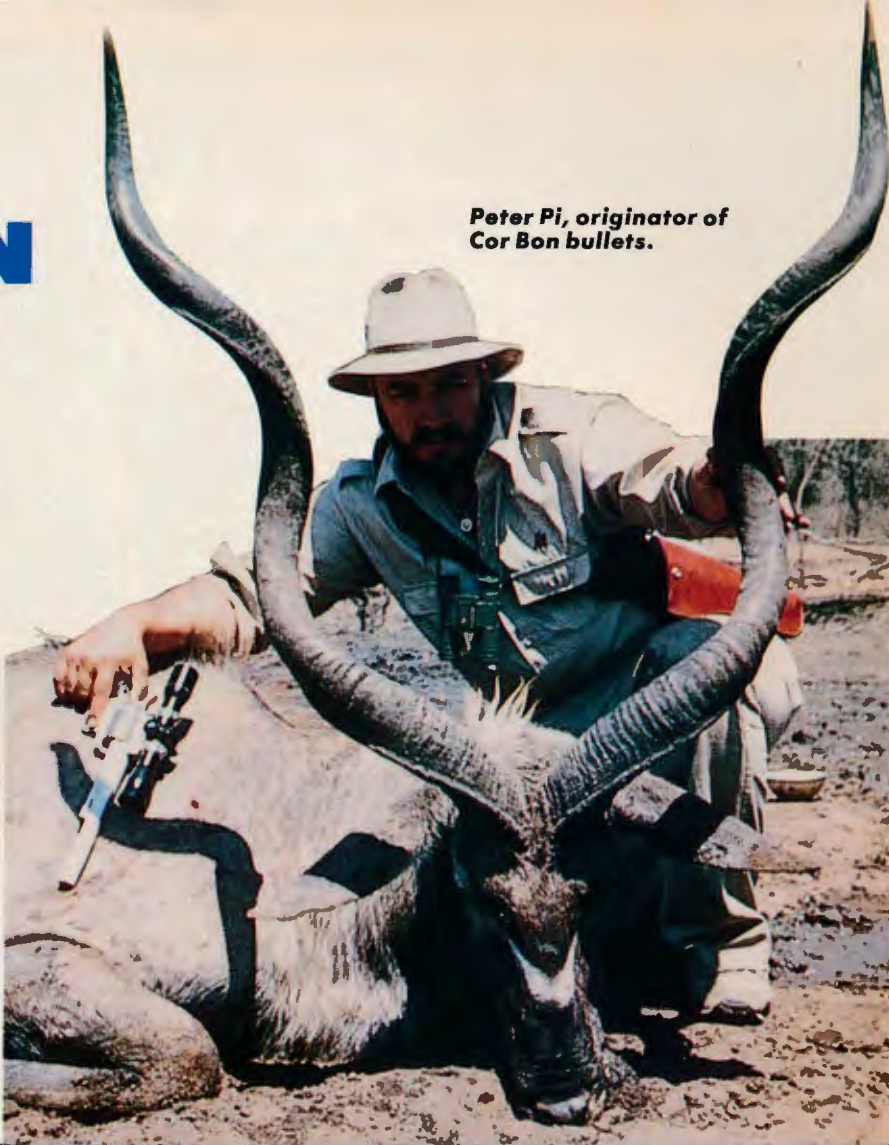
Hunting bullets are the most sophisticated of all sporting bullets, certainly more complex in design and more demanding in performance than target missiles, varmint slugs and plinking pills. Moreover, handgun hunting bullet design throws an added challenge because the technology established in rifle bullets is not relevant due to the lower velocities of handguns.

The handgun hunting bullet is neither concerned with interior nor exterior ballistics. The bullet made for killing game is solely interested in terminal ballistics, the dynamics of lethality. While a high ballistic coefficient is a wonderful attribute in exterior ballistics, this and other form factors affecting a bullet's trajectory are less important to the hunter than penetration and expansion, the two most significant characteristics of killing.

All efforts at improving bullet construction center on balancing these two forces, expansion and penetration. The H-frame or partition design is an effort to assure expansion yet retain penetration by

Continued on page 82

Peter Pi, originator of Cor Bon bullets.



Cor Bon Hunting Bullets

.44 Magnum

260 gr. bonded core soft point
280 gr. bonded core soft point
260 gr. Penetrator FMJ
280 gr. Penetrator FMJ
305 gr. Penetrator FMJ

.454 Casull

260 gr. bonded core soft point
300 gr. bonded core soft point
320 gr. Penetrator FMJ

.375 JDJ

280 gr. bonded core spitzer

.308 (.30-30, .309 JDJ, etc.)

180 gr. bonded core spitzer
150 gr. bonded core spitzer

7 mm JDJ

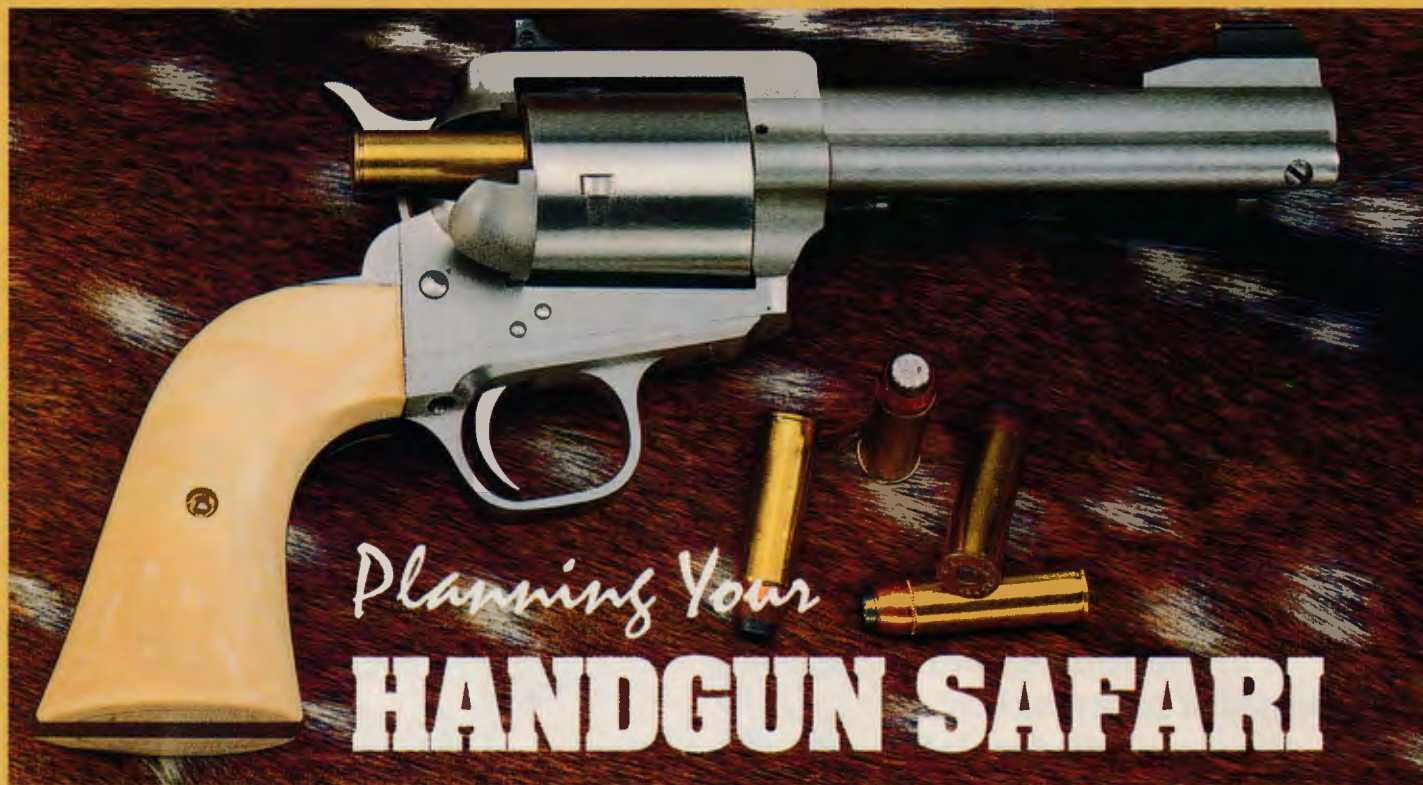
160 gr. bonded core spitzer

.270 JDJ

150 gr. bonded core spitzer



Cor Bon bullets, L-R, include 280 gr. .44; 300 gr. .454 soft; 300 gr. .454 solid; 260 gr. .454; 280 gr. .375; 150 gr. .308.



By Cameron Hopkins

Dreams, childhood dreams, rest like dormant flower bulbs waiting to germinate in adult life. Ever since I was a little boy I have been entranced with the dream of an African safari. Stewart Granger, trailed by a sweating line of native porters, trekked into my living room in *King Solomon's Mines* and killed an enraged elephant next to Dad's favorite chair. Then Tarzan swung through the jungle into my family den to wrestle a man-eating croc. One day I too would swat bugs in the sweltering African sun, one day I would be Bomba the Jungle Boy.

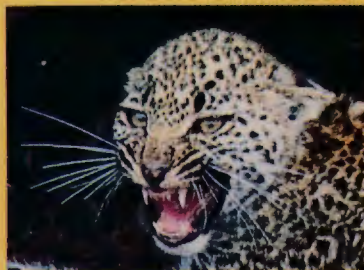
Today the dream of an African safari has come true. Exciting, thrilling, compelling — a safari is everything my active little boy's imagination said it would be, and more. It is not simply travelling to a strange and magic land. It is not merely a hunt for big and dangerous game. An African safari is one of the most moving, spiritually stimulating experiences a hunter can feel. Your soul is stirred to its core as Africa triggers deep, primordial instincts and emotions.

If you're a handgun hunter who has shared this very special dream of an African safari, then you too can feel the hackles on your neck quiver to the throaty roar of a lion on the prowl. An African safari is one dream that *can* come true.

It is a myth that a safari is only for oil company presidents and directors of multi-national banks. Example: an ad in a hunting magazine quotes an Alaska caribou hunt at \$2,195. This does not include a hunting license. Compare that to \$1,995 for a "beginner's" safari, license included. The same magazine has an ad that invites you to shoot grizzly bear for \$6,000, license not included. Contrast that to a 14 day leopard hunt, with licenses included for three antelopes as well, for \$5,995.

The point is that an African safari costs about the same as a hunt in Alaska or, for that matter, an elk hunt in Idaho or a moose hunt in British Columbia. In fact, I know of whitetail deer hunts in Texas (\$3,500) that are more expensive than some safaris.

But to benefit from the "affordable" safaris and yet at the same time enjoy a proper hunt, you need to plan carefully for your dream-come-true handgun safari.



There are over a dozen different countries, that remain open to hunting, on the Dark Continent teeming with game and sprawling with adventure. Many reputable safari firms pitch their tents all across Africa. However, all but a handful of the countries have laws prohibiting the use of handguns.

For example, Zimbabwean regulations state: "No person shall use for hunting purposes a pistol or revolver or a bow and arrow." Botswana strictly forbids the importation of any handguns for hunting or otherwise. Zambian law mandates a minimum of .375 H&H Magnum for any of the Big Five.

Fortunately, one country welcomes handgun hunters and that same nation also happens to boast the most affordable safaris. This land has been practicing modern techniques of game management long before the rest of Africa had decolonized. Consequently, today the game is thriving.

Handgun hunting has been carefully studied by the game department of South Africa, a country that *Life* magazine says has the most

refined system of game management anywhere in the world.

South Africa single-handedly saved the white rhinoceros from extinction with a captive breeding and habitat re-introduction program pioneered by the Natal Parks Board. The successful rhino program is considered a model of perfect game management.

At one point in time, the bontebok was actually declared extinct. Today it abounds, thanks solely to South African game management programs. The mountain zebra was similarly saved by South African authorities. Current programs include re-introducing the cheetah and the sable antelope, both of which have declined in population due to the encroachment of farms, cities and other tokens of civilization.

More hunters go on safari in South Africa every year than in the rest of the entire continent of Africa. The combined hunters of Zambia and Zimbabwe, Botswana and Tanzania — all of Africa! — do not add up to the number of hunters who safari in South Africa!

Planning your South African safari requires a bit of homework.

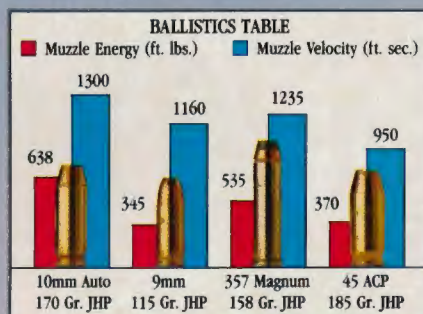
Continued on page 116

You can count the reasons for owning a Colt 10mm Auto on both hands.

After a year of redesigning and extensive testing, Colt has modified the slide and receiver system of the world renowned Government Model to accommodate the powerful new 10mm auto round. The Colt Delta Elite™ is an impressive semi-auto pistol, chambered for an equally impressive cartridge.

The 10mm auto is a hot cartridge, pure and simple. The 170 grain hollow point round leaves the muzzle at an awesome 1300 ft/sec, almost 150 ft/sec faster than the conventional 9mm. Muzzle energy is almost twice that of the 45 ACP. Impressive ballistics, in anyone's book.

Combine these statistics with the fact that this round is chambered in a pistol with a mechanism second to none, and you've got yourself a lot of pistol.



Ballistics are nominal and have been obtained from test barrels. Individual firearms may vary from these specifications.

Whether in the field, on the range or with law enforcement agencies, this is one pistol that will deliver, when it counts.

Ten reasons to own the new Colt Delta Elite. Boil it down further and you get dependability, speed and power. Those ingredients spell Colt, and shooters have been relying on this name for quite some time.



Hartford, CT 06101

Design and mechanism styled after Colt's famous Government Model.

10mm translates into 40 cal. Big, fast, flat shooting and hard hitting.

Wraparound neoprene grips for secure hold.

High profile 3-dot sighting system for faster sight alignment.

Incorporates all of the safety features found in Series 80 Colt pistols.

Extensive endurance and function testing to ensure consistent performances.

Sleek, well balanced and familiar size.

Minimum of perceived recoil.

Beveled magazine well for quick positive reloading.

New high performance pistol crafted in the Colt tradition.



Warning: Be a safe shooter—never chamber a round until you are ready to shoot. Always read and follow the instruction manuals which accompany each firearm. Ask your area's law enforcement agency about gun ownership and defense laws. Free instruction manuals and Colt catalogs are also available from the factory on request.

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BIG BOR



E AUTOS

for handgun hunting


The .44 Magnum Desert Eagle.

The .45 Magnum Grizzly.

The .357 Magnum Coonan.

How do these heavy duty magnum autopistols stack up for handgun hunting?

By James E. Fender



When inventor Harry W. Sanford introduced his big-bore semi-automatic Auto Mag in .44 and .357 Auto Mag calibers in the early 1970s it was touted as the ultimate hunting handgun. Unfortunately, and I don't believe due to the fault of Harry Sanford, the Auto Mag never achieved its promise as a hunting handgun.

Oh, there was plenty of game taken with the Auto Mag, but there were numerous problems with the Auto Mag, primarily relating to its functional reliability. No less an authority on the Auto Mag than Kent Lomont stated that "An Auto Mag is definitely not reliable enough to safely hunt dangerous game unless two very well tuned guns are used in the hands of an expert."

The very few Auto Mags which are resold during the course of a year change hands for well over one thousand dollars each, but there is a new crop of big-bore autoloaders currently available for the handgun hunter's consideration.

How suitable are these three big-bore autoloaders, the Coonan .357 Magnum, the Desert Eagle .44 Magnum and the LAR Grizzly .45 Winchester Magnum, for handgun hunting?

I've spent four months with these big-bore autoloaders, and carried two of them afield for whitetail deer during New Hampshire and Maine hunting seasons. While I do not profess to know all there is to know about these three autoloaders, I've shot and hand-loaded for them extensively. So perhaps my comments may be of some value to handgunners considering any of these pistols for hunting purposes.

Taking these autoloaders in alphabetical order, we find that the Coonan is the only one of the three to be manufactured almost exclusively from stainless steel. When stainless steel revolvers and pistols first began to

appear in the 1970s handgunners thought they were the answer to a lot of problems involving corrosion. Lately, though, that view has been re-examined, and while most shooters still consider properly functioning stainless steel handguns to be superb technical achievements of the gun maker's art, perhaps the supposed benefits of stainless steel are more theoretical than real.

While it's true that stainless steel is more corrosion resistant than regular tool steel, what conscientious shooter or handgunner would ever let his firearm deteriorate to the point that its functioning is impaired? To state the obvious, stainless steel manufacture does not automatically ensure a superior firearm, and manufacture of a firearm from tool steel such as 4140 does not automatically mean that the firearm is inferior.

For all its theoretical advantages stainless steel does have one real world disadvantage, and that is "galling" or the immutable physical property that stainless steel sliding against stainless steel is subject to much more friction and its consequent action retardation than is tool steel. Overcoming the potential problems of galling tests the ingenuity of autoloading pistol manufacturers, and the method adopted by Coonan seems to be the liberal application of lithium based grease to the barrel and all bearing surfaces of slide and receiver.

Slathering on the lubricant does reduce friction and increase functioning reliability, but it also attracts dust, dirt and sand. If you were to drop a Coonan onto the sands of Arizona or Texas during a peccary hunt, particularly if the pistol were as well greased as it comes from the manufacturer, you would probably have to completely disassemble the pistol and clean it thoroughly in a solvent such as kerosene before it would function.

During my evaluation of the Coonan I put well over 500 rounds through the pistol. There were some initial failures to feed due to galling, but as the autoloader "wore in" the pistol became much smoother in operation. There were no stoppages of any kind in the last 300 rounds I fired. After the first 50 rounds I wiped off all the lubricant which had been on the pistol when I received it brand spanking new from the manufacturer, and applied much less lithium based grease only on critical bearing surfaces. The Coonan and I got along fine after that, but I did keep the bearing surfaces lubricated at all times.

At first glance the Coonan appears to be a close copy of the 1911 Colt Government Model. The B Model Coonan weighs only 42 ounces empty, only four ounces more than the Colt Government Model .45 ACP, and is only slightly larger than the Colt. Anyone at all familiar with the Colt Government Model will have absolutely no trouble in adapting to the .357 Magnum Coonan. Indeed, it's just about like learning to fly in a Cessna 150, a two-place training aircraft, then transitioning into the four-place Cessna 172. The controls are all in the same place; there's just a little more horsepower available.

We'll return to this issue of horsepower later, but first let's take a look at the accuracy the Coonan provides. It's extremely good with my favorite load of 16 grains of WW-296 pushing the 158 grain Hornady jacketed hollowpoint. Ten round groups which went into two inches center-to-center at 25 yards using the excellent Bo-Mar adjustable rear sight were common, and five-inch 10 round groups at 50 yards were routine for all of the various factory ammunition and handloads I put through the Coonan.

The 158 grain Hornady load could be relied upon to keep its ten rounds into slightly more than four inches, and that is about as good as I can do now with a handgun with open sights over sandbags. For those wishing to scope the Coonan, just about any system of scope mounting which will work on the .45 ACP Colt Government Model will work on the Coonan. However, if you were to use a replacement grip panel which supports a scope you would have to relocate the grip screw holes, and then the grip would be a little skimpy unless you have one fabricated specifically for the Coonan.

I used a variety of other handloads in the Coonan, and the results are furnished separately. The JDJ lead bullets proved to be extremely accurate, though not quite as accurate as the 158 grain Hornady JHP. However, with this bullet's greater weight it may be a better choice for the handgun hunter.

Any glitches with the Coonan? Well, the front of the grip frame and the mainspring housing are smooth, and the pistol would twist sideways in my hand with every shot. The Coonan people loaned me this pistol for evaluation, but I'm seriously considering buying it because I like finely crafted firearms of any type—and the Coonan is that. If I do buy the pistol the very first thing I would do would be to send it to Jack Maples, the master armorer for the Army's Advanced

Marksmanship Training Unit at Fort Benning who recently retired and is now practicing his craft in Smiths, Alabama, for his stippling job.

I would also have an ambidextrous safety fitted since I am left-handed. These two minor criticisms, aside from the problem of galling in this stainless steel autoloader, are the only areas in which I can possibly fault the Coonan.

The Coonan is a fine pistol, but in all honesty I cannot recommend the .357 Magnum as a cartridge suitable for hunting anything larger than peccary, and at ranges less than 50 yards at that. Writer and reader must both be careful here since I am admitting to my prejudices regarding the .357 Magnum.

When the .357 Magnum was developed in the mid-1930s it was the world's most power-

superb piece of equipment, and I marvel at the facility with which it feeds rimmed cartridges. I have been given a few guarded hints, and I have heard that Coonan has done some research in chambering this autoloader for a more powerful cartridge such as the .41 Magnum. The Coonan in this caliber, perhaps even with a six inch barrel versus its current five inch length, would make a much more satisfactory hunting handgun, and at very little increase in weight.

If you choose to hunt with the .357 Magnum Coonan autoloader, I hope you will remember that the .357 Magnum is like a .410 shotgun, both of which require getting close to the game, conscientiously not using the caliber on animals beyond the cartridge's capabilities, and placing the shot with utmost accuracy.



The longslide .45 Magnum Grizzly pistol has a 10-inch barrel and weighs 3.71 pounds unloaded. Yes, it's "muzzle heavy."

ful handgun cartridge of that time, suitable for all game up to the size of moose. I don't know anyone who would today suggest that the .357 Magnum is suitable for moose, and most people with experience with this cartridge recommend its use on substantially smaller game.

I have seen too many examples of this cartridge's failure to humanely kill whitetail deer even when hit in vital areas, and I personally counsel against the .357 Magnum's use for any game animal above the size of the aforementioned peccary. The .357 Magnum is a step up in horsepower from the .45 ACP, but it's still no Turbo Centurion, if you'll pardon my mixing of metaphors.

You've probably heard it said that the .357 Magnum admits of very little error when used against deer sized animals. I would revise that to state that the .357 Magnum admits of *no* error when used on game of that size, and since there are other handgun calibers much more suitable for hunting North American game animals I recommend that the serious handgun hunter use those calibers.

This is not to slight the Coonan. It is a

Now to the Desert Eagle in .44 Magnum. I was unable to obtain a sample of this interesting gas operated big-bore autoloader directly from the importer and had to rely upon the loan of a pistol from a shooting acquaintance. I had the loan of this pistol for only one week-end, and consequently was unable to become as familiar with the Desert Eagle as I wished.

The owner had purchased the Desert Eagle new and had fired less than one hundred rounds through the pistol. The ammunition had all been 180 grain factory loads, and he had experienced a number of failures to cycle the slide with this ammunition. When we moved to a load of 20 grains of WW-296 and the 240 grain Speer #4453 the Desert Eagle functioned reliably.

Accuracy, though, was disappointing. I tried several different factory loads and three other handloads which had always given me excellent results in .44 Magnum revolvers, and the Desert Eagle just could not produce the results I had historically gotten from revolvers.

The trigger pull of my friend's Desert Eagle was quite heavy and exhibited a great

BIG BORE AUTO HANDLOADS

.44 Magnum Desert Eagle

Bullet	Powder Charge	Velocity
Speer 240 gr. JHP	24 grs. WW296	1435 fps
Speer 240 gr. JHP	20 grs. WW296	1390 fps
Speer 240 gr. JHP	18 grs. Blue Dot	1370 fps
Sierra 240 gr. JHP	20 grs. #2400	1325 fps

.45 Magnum Grizzly

Bullet	Powder Charge	Velocity
Speer 225 gr. JHP	18 grs. Blue Dot	1530 fps
Speer 200 gr. JHP	20 grs. Blue Dot	1615 fps
Speer 260 gr. JHP	21 grs. WW296	1315 fps
JDJ 340 gr. cast	14 grs. Blue Dot	1060 fps
JDJ 270 gr. cast	20 grs. #2400	1200 fps
JDJ 270 gr. cast	16 grs. Blue Dot	1325 fps
JDJ 270 gr. cast	21 grs. WW296	1280 fps

.357 Magnum Coonan

Bullet	Powder Charge	Velocity
Hornady 158 gr. JHP	13 grs. Blue Dot	1310 fps
Hornady 158 gr. JHP	16 grs. #2400	1305 fps
Hornady 158 gr. JHP	16 grs. WW296	1500 fps
JDJ 190 gr. cast	16 grs. WW296	1465 fps
JDJ 190 gr. cast	14 grs. #2400	1410 fps

Neither the author nor American Handgunner accept responsibility for results obtained with this handloading information due to the variation in reloading components and individual handloading techniques inherent in the handloading of center-fire cartridges.



deal of roughness. Curious as to the exact trigger weight, I rigged up a sack of bullets to hang below my NRA trigger weight, which weighed only five pounds, and kept adding bullets until I got the trigger to break. Then I weighed the sack of bullets on an accurate postal scale, got the weight in pounds and added that weight to the five pound steel NRA weight. The trigger did not break consistently at the same weight, and the pull varied between 13.5 and 14.5 pounds.

The sights on this Desert Eagle with its six inch barrel were of the fixed type and somewhat coarse. Groups over the sandbags were fairly consistent in the four inch range for 10 rounds with no inexplicable flyers. The Desert Eagle can be fitted with the excellent Millett rear sight, and in my opinion no pistol should be released by the importer without an adjustable rear sight, since all of the groups I shot were well below point of aim.

The Desert Eagle can also be fitted with an excellent Timney trigger which reportedly

will bring the trigger pull down to four pounds. Anyone who is seriously interested in using a Desert Eagle as a hunting handgun would be suffering under unacceptable handicaps without the Timney trigger and the Millett sights.

The Desert Eagle is the heaviest of the three big-bore autoloaders evaluated, and weighs almost five pounds with a loaded magazine. Mounts for a scope or an Aim-point type optical sight are available from the importer. With optics added, the all-up weight of the Desert Eagle could easily top that of some light-weight hunting rifles.

I do regret not having more time to spend with the Desert Eagle. This pistol differs substantially from the Coonan and the LAR Grizzly in that it is gas operated, and I have long been interested in gas operated handguns. The gas system seems to be fairly straightforward and simple. Gas is taken off through a port at the bottom front of the barrel's chamber and flows through a channel

in the barrel shroud some four inches in length where the gas then exerts its pressure against a piston contained in the front of the heavy barrel.

This gas pressure unlocks the slide, and a pin inside the slide bears against the bolt head to rotate it counterclockwise. The four locking lugs on the bolt face disengage from their recesses in the barrel and the slide recoils the full length necessary to eject the fired case, while the power stored in the recoil springs move the slide forward to chamber a new round stripped from the magazine.

It is quite an interesting system, and one which I believe will be reliable in operation, though I would not want to subject the system to pressures much greater than those delivered by ammunition loaded to factory velocities and pressure levels.

The importer cautions against the use of cast lead bullets and bullets with open lead bases since shavings and particles of molten

Continued on page 101

You can win a U.S. SPECIAL FORCES COMBAT .45



United States Special Forces are the most elite warriors in the world and they deserve the best weapons. Traditionally, elements of the Special Forces, which include the brave Navy SEALs, the intrepid Army Green Beret and the secret anti-terrorist Delta Force, have fought with special weapons. From "duck-billed" shotguns for tunnel-rats in Vietnam to today's combat arsenal for battling skyjacking terrorists, the guns of the Special Forces are often customized for special missions. Reliable, accurate, hard-hitting—the warriors of the Special Forces demand the best.

When it came time to select the best combat .45 ACP fighting pistol, the Special Forces turned to master pistolsmith Bill Wilson for their crucial sidearm. These chosen few men picked the Wilson Special Forces Combat .45 because, like today's combat shooting champions, they too recognize the leading "house of combat gunnery" in the United States at Wilson's Gun Shop in Berryville, Ark.

The Wilson Special Forces Combat .45 is not a pretty two-tone, gilt-edged showpiece—it is a serious fighting handgun. The men fight with the proven Wilson Special Forces Combat .45 because of the weapon's unsurpassed reliability.

Starting with a Colt Government Model Series 80 pistol, the team of expert gunsmiths at Wilson's Gun Shop fitted a match-grade Wilson .45 ACP barrel that is throated and polished for absolutely flawless functioning in the heat of battle. A recoil spring guide rod serves to enhance the weapon's function.


Wilson's platoon of gunsmiths hand-fitted each of the Special Forces Combat .45 pistols with a Wilson beavertail grip safety which allows for better shot-to-shot recovery for faster rapid fire because a beavertail soaks up felt-recoil by distributing the punch over a larger area. Additionally, the beavertail allows for a more secure grip by eliminating any chance of painful "hammer bite." The hammer itself is a Commander hammer.

Each Wilson Special Forces Combat .45 features a set of high-visibility combat sights for faster sight pictures and more deadly aimed fire. The sharp edges of the pistol have been gently rounded to prevent snagging on clothing or the holster.

The front strap of the pistol is stippled for a non-slip gripping surface, even with wet or sweaty hands. The magazine well is bevelled for a faster, more positive reload.

The Special Forces Combat .45 features a Wilson extended match trigger which has been carefully honed for a crisp, combat release. A super-light "competition" trigger is not desirable on a fighting handgun, so the Wilson gunsmiths set each of the pistols with a good "combat trigger" of four smooth pounds.

Naturally all internal working parts are polished for the utmost in reliability and smoothness.

If you're serious about a fighting pistol, take a tip from the elite Special Forces and rely on the best, a Wilson Special Forces Combat .45 pistol. For more information, send \$3.00 for Wilson's complete 54-page color catalog at Wilson's Gun Shop, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 578, Berryville, AR, 72616. 

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Circle your answer to question (A) (B) (C) (D) _____

If I win, please ship my gun through: _____

Dealer _____

Address _____

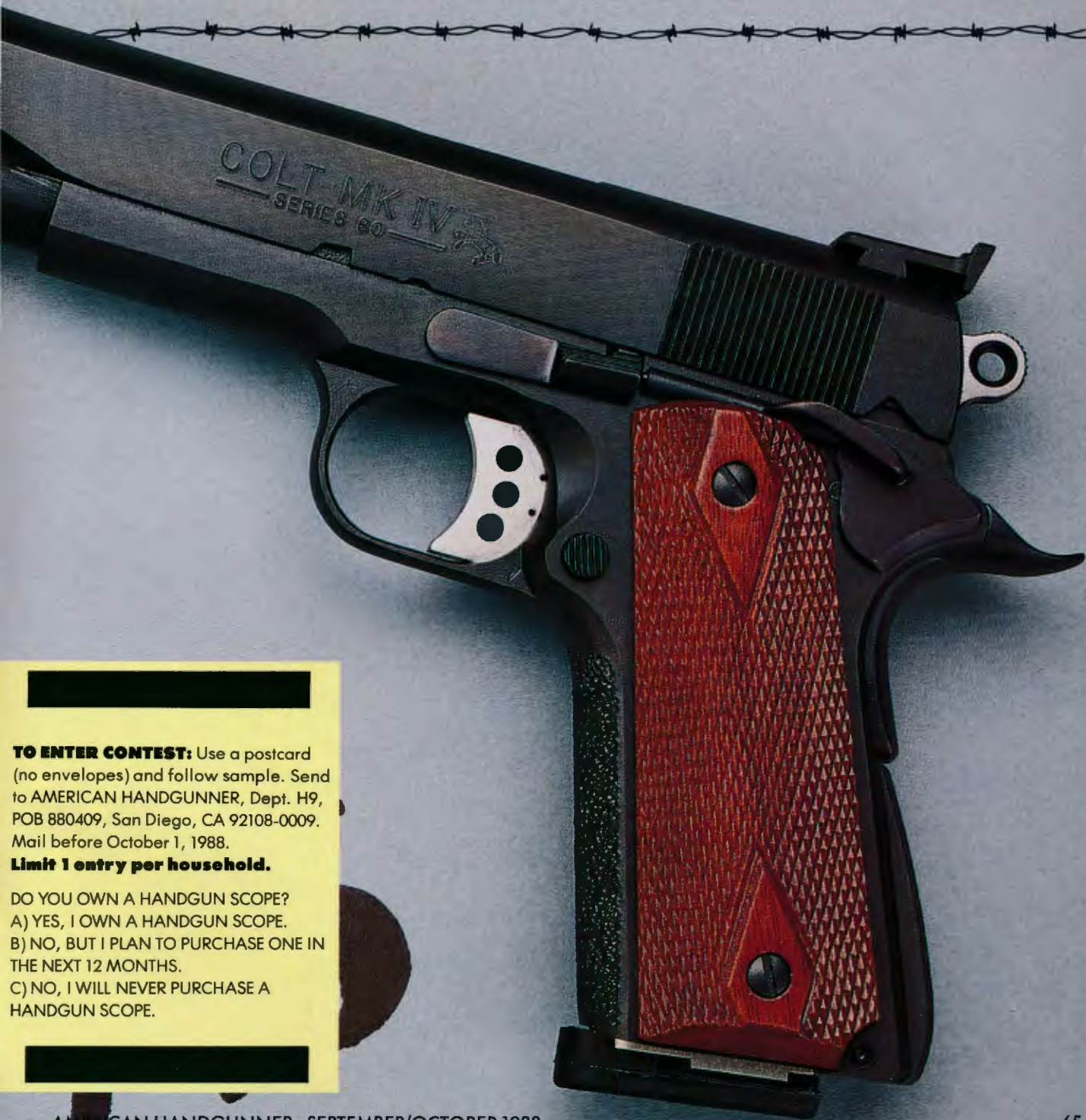
City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Store Hours _____ am _____ pm

Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law. Winners must comply with all federal and local laws. Contest open to U.S. residents only. Employees and agents of Publishers' Development Corp. not eligible. No purchase necessary. Winners will be notified by REGISTERED MAIL on official letterhead.

SPECIAL FORCES BAT .45

Wilson's Gun Shop is the home of the combat .45 and now elements of elite US special forces are fighting with Bill Wilson's customized manstoppers!



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard (no envelopes) and follow sample. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Dept. H9, POB 880409, San Diego, CA 92108-0009. Mail before October 1, 1988.

Limit 1 entry per household.

DO YOU OWN A HANDGUN SCOPE?

- A) YES, I OWN A HANDGUN SCOPE.
- B) NO, BUT I PLAN TO PURCHASE ONE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.
- C) NO, I WILL NEVER PURCHASE A HANDGUN SCOPE.



By Mickey Fowler

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

I have dreamed of hunting Africa as long as I can remember. As a child growing up in the city, I collected all the airline posters on African travel I could get my hands on which showed the majestic animals of the Dark Continent. Pictures of elephant, lion, buffalo and other game animals covered the walls of my room.

I also had an insatiable desire for information on guns and ballistics. By the time I started grade school, I could recite the ballistic tables of all standard American rifle and pistol calibers.

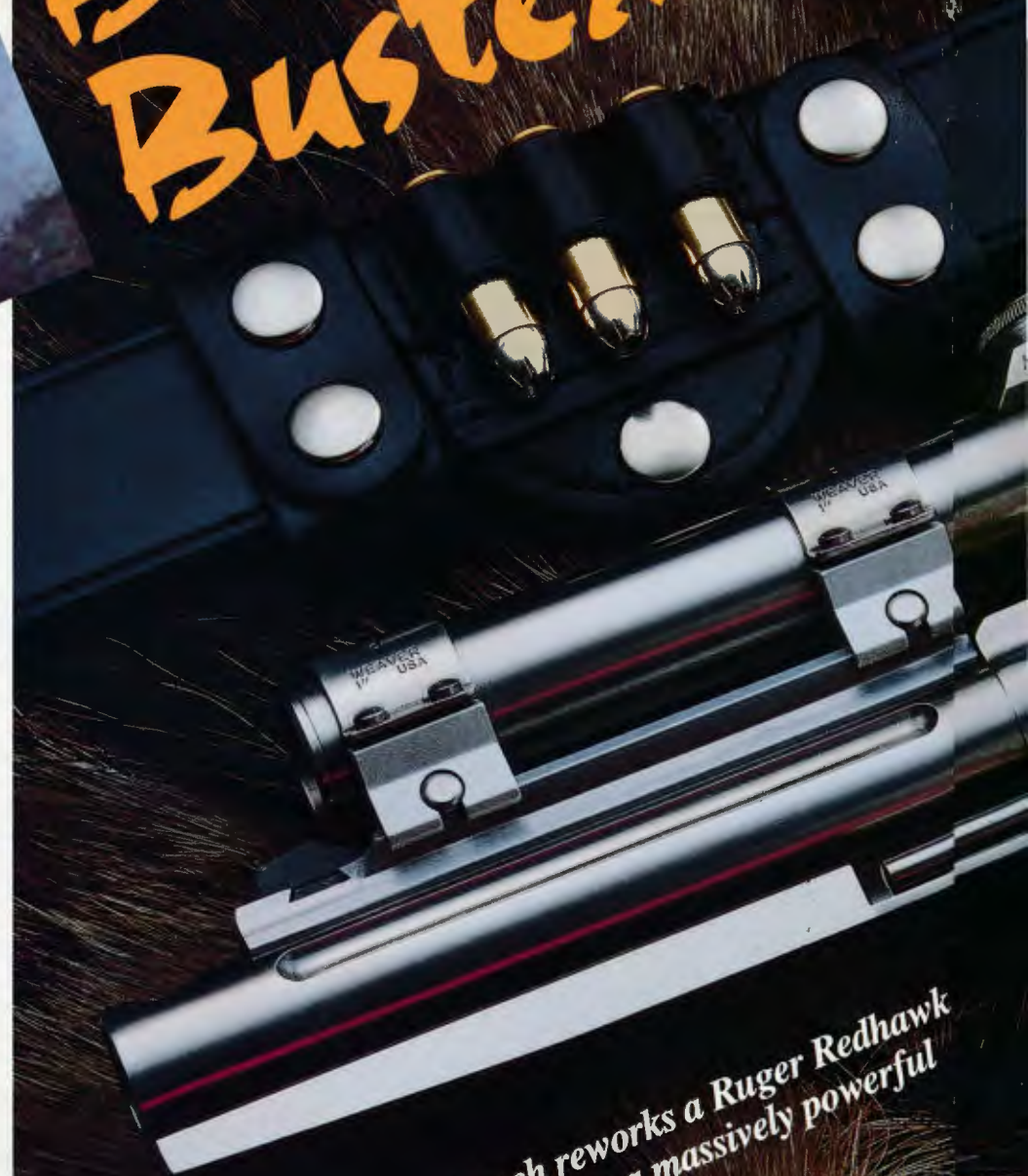
At a very early age, I was given my first handgun. This gun was a S&W Model 28 Highway Patrolman in .357 Magnum. With this revolver, I went on many imaginary hunts dry-firing my pistol at the animals pictured in my room. As the years went by, I never lost my interest in guns.

Oh, I was sidetracked temporarily in my teens by motorcycle racing and in my twenties by auto racing, but shooting, and handgunning in particular, never were far from my mind.

Two trips to South Africa, one in 1979 and one in 1981 as a member of the U.S.A. Gold IPSC Pistol Team rekindled my dreams of hunting big game on the African Veld. After the 1981 World Match, I had the opportunity to visit the bush and take a Blesbok antelope. I used my IPSC match gun, a modified .45 auto and my match ammo. These loads consisted of the 200 grain Hornady CT Match bullet at a muzzle velocity of almost 1000 fps. That load power factored at 198 on the IPSC scale—considering that 175 was considered major caliber I thought that my ammo would be more than adequate for deer-sized game.

I took a big ram at about 40 yards with a

Bull Buster!



Master gunsmith John French reworks a Ruger Redhawk into the ultimate hunting revolver, a massively powerful .44 Magnum that has proven itself against Africa's mighty Cape buffalo.







broadside heart shot. The animal traveled about 75 yards after being hit.

As we cleaned him, I found my bullet imbedded halfway into the heart. It had broken a rib and total penetration was only about three-inches, not a very impressive performance from this highly touted "manstopper."

Even though I had made a clean kill, it didn't take much thought to realize that the .45 automatic wasn't adequate for even hunting small antelope. I knew that someday I would plan a hunt for the larger species of African game. A much more powerful handgun, using special purpose loads, would be needed.

As happens all too often in this life,

business commitments monopolized my time for the next few years. A phone call in September 1985 was to turn my African hunting dreams into reality. Cameron Hopkins, editor of *American Handgunner*, and Bill Wilson had booked a hunt in South Africa for October and even though it was very short notice, Cameron asked if I would like to come along. We would be able to hunt plains game, plus Cape buffalo.

My reply was an immediate "You bet!" Less than one month remained before the hunt. During this time I would have to get my airline ticket and a visa plus choose a gun and load for my hunt. I decided to use a .44 Magnum revolver, but what bullet and

load would be capable of taking on a Cape buffalo?

A phone call to J.D. Jones of S.S.K. Industries (Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH, 43910) solved the ammo question. J.D. recommended his .44 caliber 320 grain truncated cone lead bullet, loaded with a very heavy charge of Winchester 296 powder. This would give the deep penetration necessary for a clean kill.

Looking through my gun safe, I found a new stainless Ruger Redhawk .44 magnum. This revolver was to be modified to my specifications by Bruce Gray and Jim Boland, two men known for their custom work on semi-auto pistols for IPSC matches.



Three versions of Buff Buster with, left, a camo finish on a 6" Douglas barreled Redhawk (62 ozs.), above, an 8" Buff Buster (66 ozs.) and, right, a 6½" barreled stainless Redhawk with an underlug (69 ozs.) The flutes in the barrels not only lend a distinctive appearance but also relieve some weight. Gunsmith French favors the superb Douglas premium barrels, which each Buff Buster sports. Two have Leupold scopes, while one (right) has a now-discontinued Weaver P2S 2x scope.

I drew up a list of specifications I thought would improve performance, and work began. A 10½-inch Douglas barrel with muzzle brake was fitted, also a Leupold 2X scope. Ted Blocker made a custom holster and I was ready to go. When I put the gun and holster on, I looked more like Hans Solo of Star Wars than a hunter.

Although the revolver was beautifully built exactly to my specifications, it felt like it needed wheels and a towbar to carry around. The finished weight was almost six



pounds. Fortunately, I had been working out with weights or I might not have been able to fire the revolver from the offhand position! Too late to change it now. I would be leaving for South Africa in four days.

That first hunt was a success largely because of the advice and help of J.D. Jones. I used his 300 grain truncated cone bullet behind a heavy dose of Winchester 296 powder and collected a Cape buffalo bull with one shot. A nice Kudu bull and Warthog also fell with single shots from the heavy Redhawk. As the saying goes, "Live and learn."

As soon as I returned, I started planning my next African hunt. Deon Goosen of Zwikwarani Safaris had guided me on the

first hunt. Deon is one of the first licensed pro hunters in South Africa and has much experience hunting all types of African game. He is also an avid handgunner and understands what it takes to have a successful pistol hunt. I phoned Deon and set up a hunt for June of 1986.

I now had the time needed to build a new revolver adding improvements I had learned from field experience gained in my first African hunt. I decided to look at some other .44 Magnum double-action revolvers. The Smith & Wesson Models 29 and 629 have always been favorites of mine. No other double-action big bore has quite as nice an action or feel as a properly smoothed up Model 29. Its lightweight



makes it comfortable to carry for long periods of time.

But it has one serious shortcoming. The cylinder bolt cuts are machined directly over the cylinder holes. This weakens the cylinder and could result in a destroyed gun and possible serious injury when using the extra heavy loads, which I think are necessary for hunting large dangerous game animals. I believe that if Smith & Wesson would come out with a five shot, large-frame revolver in .44 mag and .45 Long Colt, with the cylinder bolt cuts machined between the cylinder holes, and beef up the frame slightly that this would be the ultimate double-action hunting revolver.

If I were to restrict my shooting to deer-sized game the Smith & Wesson would

have been my choice.

Next, I looked at the Dan Wesson .44 revolver. These guns have dominated the revolver class at metallic silhouette matches. They are capable of superb accuracy and are very strong. I found the double-action pull on these guns to be long and heavy and the size and weight to be bigger and heavier than I wanted. I decided to stick with the Ruger Redhawk.

The double-action trigger pull of the Ruger doesn't suit me as well as a reworked Smith & Wesson but it can be improved by a good gunsmith. It certainly has proven to have the strength to digest my heavy hunting loads. Now that I had decided to stay with the Ruger Redhawk, I would need to

Continued on page 76

Meet John French

Sequestered alone like a monk copying scripture, the craftsman toils in solitude with his handtools. The master stoops closer to his work, his skilled hands delicately manipulating intricate parts into perfect harmony. He likes working alone. His standards of quality are rigorous, his attention to detail meticulous. He worries that an apprentice could not adhere to his demanding barometer of perfection. He is a master gunsmith and he accepts nothing less than excellence.

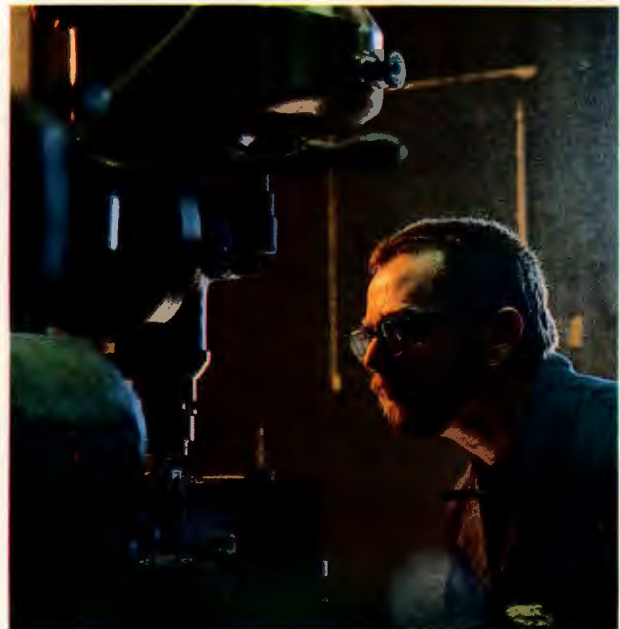
This talented man is John French,



Buff Buster hammers, top, are skeletonized to reduce weight thereby quickening lock time.

The compensator, above, is an expansion chamber design that gunsmith French custom-mills with differing dimensions depending on the bullet, load to be fired.

John French, right, runs a one-man-shop to assure his high standards of excellence and dedication to detail. French also offers a camo finish, left.



creator of the Buff Buster custom conversion of the Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum. As an example of his skills at machining, he moonlights by making custom forceps for a thoracic surgeon. John is a master craftsman by any standard.

John has led the engineering efforts of several significant experimental projects. In 1972 he built a custom Browning Hi-Power for an obscure wildcat pistol cartridge called the .40 GA. This forty-caliber wildcat is today known as the 10mm Auto, but very few people know that this California gunsmith built

Continued on page 87

FAVORITES!

for handgun hunting

A select panel of handgun hunting experts pick their favorite handguns.

By AH Staff



Mark Hampton

FAVORITE HANDGUN AND CALIBER

small game (rabbits, squirrels)
Ruger Mk. II, .22 LR
 varmints (gophers, groundhogs)
T/C.223
 medium game (deer, antelope)
T/C 6.5 JDJ
 big game (elk, bear, moose)
T/C.375 JDJ
 dangerous game (buffalo, lion)
T/C.375 JDJ

FAVORITE HUNTING REVOLVER

make/model *Ruger Redhawk*
 caliber .44 Magnum

FAVORITE SINGLE-SHOT HUNTING PISTOL

make/model *T/C Contender*
 caliber 6.5 JDJ

FAVORITE SIGHTS

scope ☒ iron ☐
 brand/model *Leupold 4x*

FAVORITE AMMUNITION

factory loads ☐ handloads ☒

ADVICE TO ASPIRING HANDGUN HUNTERS

Choose a handgun you're comfortable with and select a cartridge capable of taking game effectively. Buy the best equipment you can afford and practice as much as possible in a variety of shooting positions.

MOST EXCITING HANDGUN HUNT

Following lion spoor for over nine hours and finally catching up with two big males in thick bush and taking one running at 35 yards with my .375 JDJ.



Larry Kelly

FAVORITE HANDGUN AND CALIBER

small game (rabbits, squirrels)
Ruger Mk. II, .22LR
 varmints (gophers, groundhogs)
T/C.22 caliber
 medium game (deer, antelope)
 "Stalker".44 Magnum
 big game (elk, bear, moose)
T/C.375 JDJ
 dangerous game (buffalo, lion)
T/C.375 JDJ

FAVORITE HUNTING REVOLVER

make/model *Ruger Super Blackhawk*
 caliber .44 Magnum

FAVORITE SINGLE-SHOT

Hal Swiggett

FAVORITE HANDGUN AND CALIBER

small game (rabbits, squirrels)
Colt Woodsman, .22 LR
 varmints (gophers, groundhogs)
T/C.223
 medium game (deer, antelope)
T/C.300 Savage
 big game (elk, bear, moose)
T/C.375 JDJ
 dangerous game (buffalo, lion)
Never done it!

J. D. Jones

FAVORITE HANDGUN AND CALIBER

small game (rabbits, squirrels)
S&W K-frame, .22 Magnum
varmints (gophers, groundhogs)
T/C 6.5 JDJ

medium game (deer, antelope)
T/C 6.5 JDJ

big game (elk, bear, moose)
T/C .375 JDJ

dangerous game (buffalo, lion)
T/C .375 JDJ

FAVORITE HUNTING REVOLVER

make/model *Freedom Arms*
caliber .454 Casull

FAVORITE SINGLE-SHOT HUNTING PISTOL

HUNTING PISTOL

make/model *T/C Contender*
caliber .375 JDJ

FAVORITE SIGHTS

scope ☒ iron ☐
brand/model *Leupold 2x*

FAVORITE AMMUNITION

factory loads ☐ handloads ☒

ADVICE TO ASPIRING HANDGUN HUNTERS

Hunt squirrels, then pigs, then whitetails. Squeeze the trigger, don't jerk it.

MOST EXCITING HANDGUN HUNT

When I dropped a charging bull elephant in his tracks at 20 yards with one shot from a .44 Magnum.

make/model *T/C Contender*
caliber .375 JDJ

FAVORITE SIGHTS

scope ☒ iron ☐
brand/model *Bausch & Lomb*

FAVORITE AMMUNITION

factory loads ☐ handloads ☒

ADVICE TO ASPIRING HANDGUN HUNTERS

Learn how to shoot, learn the anatomy of big game animals and use enough gun.

MOST EXCITING HANDGUN HUNT

Fighting it out with a crazy horse in three feet of snow in the dark! A bear spooked the horse and it went

nuts as I was walking ahead of it with the reins wrapped around my left hand. I got loose uphill and the horse came at me on his hind legs, punching with his forefeet and biting. I had a Ruger Super Blackhawk under my coat in a shoulder holster. I avoided the horse and tore downhill, landing on my back and getting the .44 Magnum into action. I intended to center his chest if he came at me again, but when he heard the old Ruger's hammer snap back, he knew what it was and took off. I've had some other intensely interesting hunts, but nothing so exciting as that crazy horse!



FAVORITE HUNTING REVOLVER

make/model *Ruger Super Blackhawk*
caliber .44 Magnum

FAVORITE SINGLE-SHOT HUNTING PISTOL

make/model *T/C Contender*
caliber .375 JDJ

FAVORITE SIGHTS

scope ☒ iron ☐
brand/model *Bausch and Lomb*



FAVORITE AMMUNITION

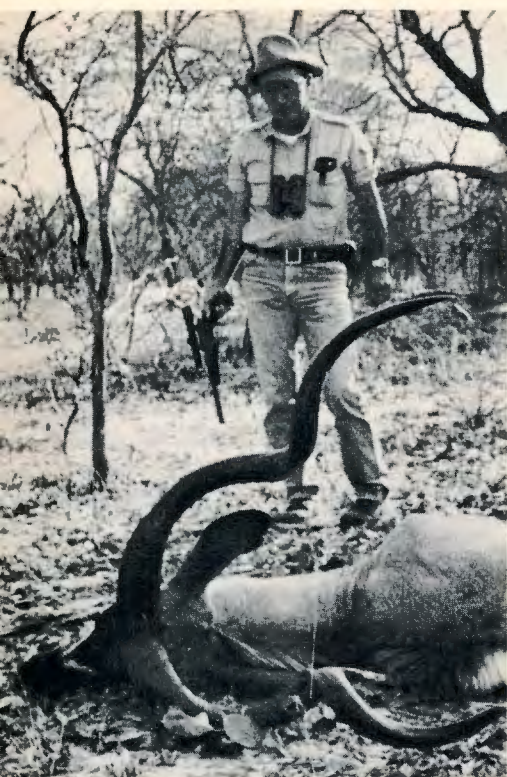
factory loads ☐ handloads ☒

ADVICE TO ASPIRING HANDGUN HUNTERS

Plan on shooting a lot in practice.

MOST EXCITING HANDGUN HUNT

The last good, solid hit always takes precedence over whatever happened earlier. This would be dropping in his tracks a 10-point white tail.



Bob Milek

Field Editor, Guns & Ammo, Hunting

FAVORITE HANDGUN AND CALIBER

small game (rabbits, squirrels)
.22 LR
 varmints (gophers, groundhogs)
6mm BR Rem.
 medium game (deer, antelope)
7mm BR Rem.
 big game (elk, bear, moose)
.35 Rem.
 dangerous game (buffalo, lion)
None. I don't believe dangerous game should be hunted with any handgun.

FAVORITE HUNTING REVOLVER

make/model *Ruger Redhawk*
 caliber *.44 Magnum*

FAVORITE SINGLE-SHOT HUNTING PISTOL

make/model *XP-100*
 caliber *7mm BR*

FAVORITE SIGHTS

scope ☒ iron ☐
 brand/model *Burris*

FAVORITE AMMUNITION

factory loads ☐ handloads ☒

ADVICE TO ASPIRING HANDGUN HUNTERS

Carefully study everything available on hunting handguns and cartridges, practice faithfully in the field and never attempt to shoot game which is beyond your capabilities or that of your equipment.

MOST EXCITING HANDGUN HUNT

One of the most memorable was taking a five-point bull elk on the Salmon River while hunting with Steve Herrett. My bull was the first head of big game taken with a Contender in .357 Herrett chambering.

Audrey Murtland

FAVORITE HANDGUN AND CALIBER

small game (rabbits, squirrels)
Colt Woodsman, .22 LR
 varmints (gophers, groundhogs)
Contender, .22 Magnum
 medium game (deer, antelope)
Contender, .300 Savage
 big game (elk, bear, moose)
Ruger Blackhawk, .44 Magnum
 dangerous game (buffalo, lion)
Ruger Blackhawk, .44 Magnum

FAVORITE HUNTING REVOLVER

make/model *Ruger Super Blackhawk*
 caliber *.44 Magnum*

FAVORITE SINGLE-SHOT HUNTING PISTOL

make/model *T/C Contender*
 caliber *.375 JDJ*

FAVORITE SIGHTS

scope ☒ iron ☐
 brand/model *Bausch & Lomb*

FAVORITE AMMUNITION

factory loads ☐ handloads ☒

ADVICE TO ASPIRING HANDGUN HUNTERS

First of all, target practice is very important and, secondly, I would suggest a beginning hunter try hunting from a blind where he (or she) can duplicate the "target prac-



tice situation" with a rest to insure success.

MOST EXCITING HANDGUN HUNT

While hunting moose on the Alaskan peninsula, my guide, Tracy Vrem, and I stopped just over the top of a mountain to glass the area when we spotted a bull lying down in the alders below us. His antlers gave him away. We crept forward just inside the brush at the edge of an opening across from where he

lay. Tracy signaled for me to shoot before letting out a bellow that would have raised the dead. As I stood with my Stalker in position, another bull came charging right at us! I fired, he shook his head and shifted into high gear! A second bullet hit his chest and he made a sharp left turn into the brush. As Tracy and I discussed following a wounded moose into the alders, we heard a loud crash! I had my moose!



DYNAMITE DERRINGERS

Continued from page 45

but it is quick and smooth. The internal pivoting hammer has good leverage and is large and heavy, insuring solid impact to prevent misfiring. The alternating striker plate is on the breechblock, not the hammer, and its movement is done by a diamond-shaped pivoting selector on top of the trigger bar. The firing pins are retracting inertia-type, and the rebounding hammer is blocked by the trigger bar when it is at rest. It's a really fine piece of engineering.

Below the lower projection of the frame, which serves as a trigger guard, there is a small spring-powered lever which blocks the trigger against rearward movement until it is depressed by the second finger as the gun is grasped. It works exactly as intended, and is a positive safety system.

The square post/square notch sights are unusually good for a gun of this type, though of course they are not likely to be used. The steel parts and the plastic of the grip frame have a matte finish, making the gun totally non-reflective. On the combat silhouette, I was able to keep two rapid-fire shots within six inches of each other, and both in vital target areas. The vertical back of the grip

The functioning of both derringers was flawless, through a total of 50 rounds. Half were ordinary .38 Special loads, and half were .38 S & W by Remington. The TEC-38 had very precisely-done chambers, and they had to be polished a little for the .38 S & W. Both guns are actually chambered for .38 Special, of course. I just think it's nice to have the option of the lighter .38 S & W load. For personal protection or law enforcement back-up, either gun will do the job dependably and safely. Since the days of the old Remington, derringers have come a long way.



BURRIS SCOPE

Continued from page 40

combination for varmints and deer. This summer I will be taking part in The Masters Tournament for the first time. A scope may be used in one event of the three that are fired—Precision, Action, and Long Range. Could this handgun/scope combination also be a possibility for the Long Range Event at The Masters?

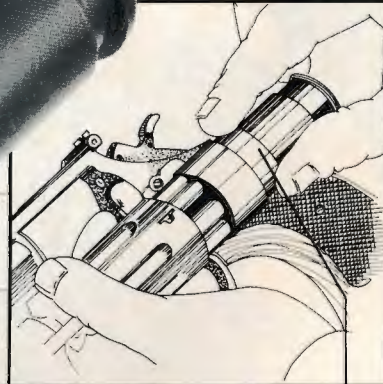
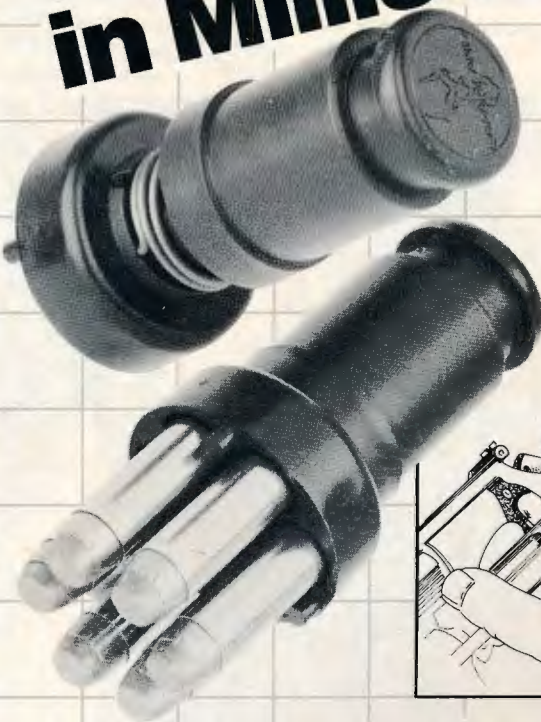
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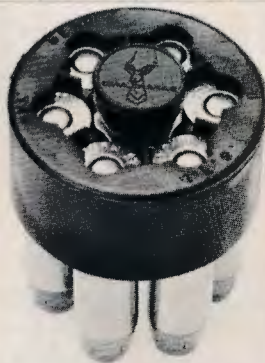
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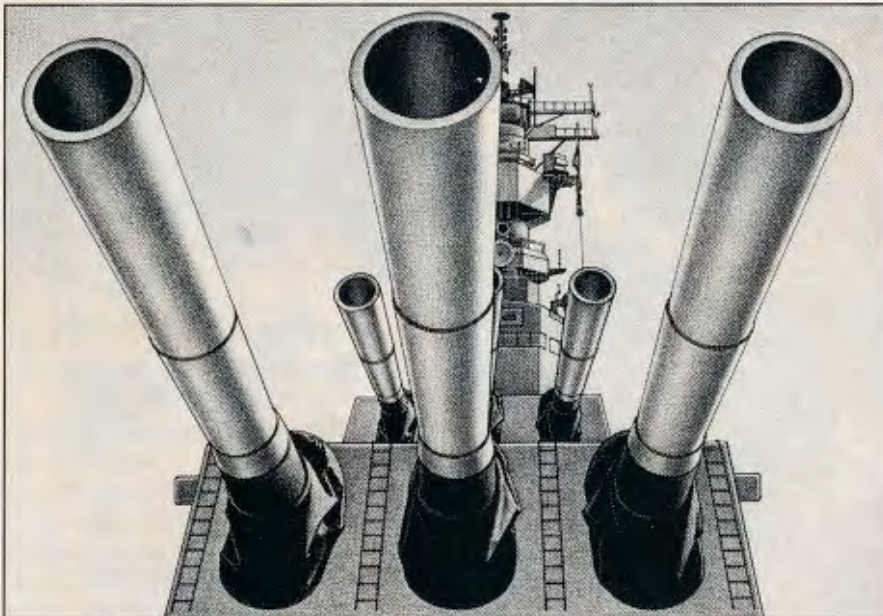
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BUFF BUSTER

Continued from page 71

make a list of modifications which would improve performance in the hunting field.

To enhance double-action rapid fire capability, I decided to use a muzzle compensator. Past IPSC experience had proven the effectiveness of compensators at reducing muzzle rise. I also knew that the heavier the load, the more effective the compensator worked. Since I would only be using the heaviest loads in the Redhawk, I knew the muzzle brake would deliver top performance.

I chose to build an expansion chamber compensator. One which when the bullet leaves the rifling of the barrel, it enters an oversized chamber with a gas venting port on top, then the bullet passes the frontal shield which is reduced down to just a few thousandths over bore diameter as the bullet exits. I believe this system, if properly designed, is more effective than porting or venting the barrel only.

I am very particular when it comes to accuracy in a hunting revolver. I decided the pistol should be rebarreled, using a stainless match grade tube. Changing the barrel had other advantages, in addition to improved accuracy—finished weight could be more closely controlled.

The modified Redhawk I used on the 1985 hunt weighed almost 65 ounces without the scope. I wanted my new gun to weigh around 52 ounces sans scope. I decided the overall barrel length should be no more than 6½-inches including the compensator. Testing showed that the heavy 300 grain bullets could still be driven at over 1500 fps from the shorter tube, so there wasn't any need for a longer barrel.

Sights were next on my list. The most accurate barrel in the world is of little use if the sight system isn't up to the task of allowing the shooter to deliver the shot with the utmost accuracy. I decided I wanted iron and scope sight capability built into the revolver. I never have liked the looks of a scope on a revolver, but I can't deny it has its advantages under certain conditions. Those of us who have limited time in which to collect our trophies, appreciate the extra half hour of shooting time allowed at sunup and sundown when using a scope. I am fortunate to have good eyesight and in decent lighting conditions I can shoot about as well with iron sights as with a scope. But good lighting and clear open shots don't often avail themselves in the hunting field so it's nice to have the option of using the scope.

The scope must be securely mounted yet be easily removed in the field. When reinstalled, it should go back to its original zero without additional adjustments. The scope mounting base must not interfere with the iron sight picture when the scope and ring combination is removed.

I chose a Leupold 2X pistol scope for

this gun. It's light, fairly compact and it stands up to several hundred rounds of heavy loads before breaking. This last statement may sound like the scope isn't very durable, but I have found that tests I have done on other brand-name scopes showed breakages after just a few cylinders full of hot ammo.

I believe iron sights are far better than a scope sight for use on dangerous game, which should always be taken at close range when using a revolver. I have definite preferences when it comes to iron sights on a handgun. The front sight must be undercut slightly so it is unaffected by glare from the sun. This front blade should be machined with square, sharp edges and have a non-glare, flat black finish.

I have never understood why so many gun manufacturers equip their hunting pistols with ramp front sights. Handgun hunting with iron sights is challenging enough without having to cope with the blinding glare of a red or orange front sight when the sun is in your face.

My favorite rear sight is the Bo-Mar. The combination of a Patridge front sight and Bo-Mar rear gives me the best possible sight picture for accurate shooting.

Dimensions of the front and rear sight are extremely important. On a 6" barrel revolver, I like the front sight to be .125" wide and the rear notch to be square and about .110" in width.

Unfortunately, the Bo-Mar sight was not adaptable to the Redhawk without extensive modifications, so a Millet rear sight, which installs in the Redhawk with no modifications, was chosen. This sight gives a similar sight picture to the Bo-Mar. I used the plain rear blade with no distracting white or orange lines to spoil my sight picture.

Some trigger work would be necessary. The Redhawk has a fairly long double-action pull. This is not a problem if the pull is smooth. Factory revolvers have considerable overtravel. A trigger stop would need to be installed. Excess overtravel in a double-action revolver is ruinous to accuracy. Imagine the disruption that occurs when the heavy 8 to 10 pounds of pressure required to manipulate the trigger suddenly is released and slams back close to one quarter of an inch to the rear of the trigger guard.

I like a double action trigger pull of 8 to 10 pounds for a hunting revolver. This would be easy to achieve with complete reliability.

Another important aspect of accurate field shooting is a fast lock time and a light hammerfall which still gives 100% reliable ignition of primers. To achieve this, I decided the hammer should be lightened.

The stock Redhawk grips must have been designed for a child. They must be replaced. I like Hogue Monogrips either in fancy wood or rubber. Hagues give me the handfilling configuration necessary to have maximum control when shooting heavy loads.

Now that I had decided on the modifica-

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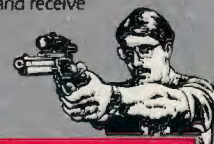
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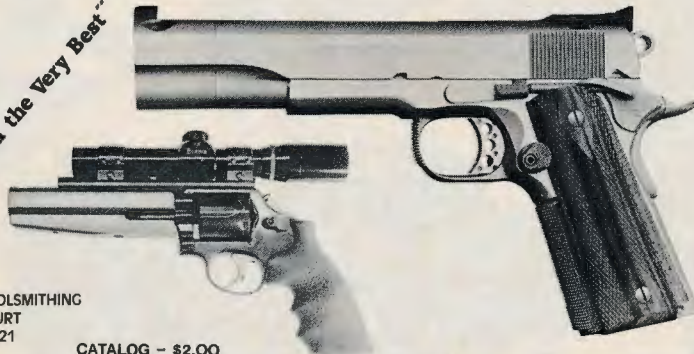
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tions I wanted, it was necessary to find a gunsmith who had the skill and engineering ability to do the job. On a weekend in January 1986 while teaching an I.S.I. competition shooting class, I saw I.S.I. instructor John Madigan shooting a modified Smith & Wesson Model 10 in .38 Special caliber.

Naturally, like all dedicated gun enthusiasts, I asked to examine it. This revolver was built for the NRA Bianchi Cup action shooting match. It had all the usual modifications, heavy match barrel, Aimpoint sight etc. I immediately noticed the fine fit and finish. Many match guns of this type are good shooters but lack attention to details.

A closer examination revealed a beautifully machined muzzle compensator cut into the barrel. I noticed that there was almost no lead buildup around the expansion chamber. Lead buildup in this area can be a real problem with some compensator designs. This leads to many unhappy hours chipping away lead trying to remove the mess. As the expansion chamber fills with lead fouling, the zero of the pistol actually changes because the compensator loses its effectiveness.

I asked John how many rounds he had fired without cleaning the expansion chamber. His reply was "Over five hundred." The inside of the chamber was a smokey gray color, but there was no lead fouling.

"Mind if I fire a cylinder full?"

Continued on page 105



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SILHOUETTE CHAMP

Continued from page 36

TJ: Which guns are you using in competition?

BC: I'm using a 7-TCU Contender in Production and Standing, but currently I'm working up loads for the 7mm UR Merrill. The cartridges are about equal, however, the superb balance and grip angle of the Merrill should be worth an extra one or two points in standing. I'll stick with the .357 Super Mag. Seville in Revolver. For Unlimited, I use my 6.5BC. The gun is a rebuilt XP-100 having a Hart bench rest stainless barrel, iron Gun Works sights, front and rear, an 8 ounce trigger pull and a free floated barrel. The guns I make differ in no way from my personal gun. My confidence in them is such that not only are they satisfaction guaranteed and test fired for group, but also I will usually shoot a match with each to make sure everything is functioning properly.

TJ: What is your most memorable shooting incident?

BC: One of the most remarkable things was when Sonny McGhee cleaned the 175 meter turkeys with 10 straight head shots! I called the first hit "high and right." The second shot was also high and right. "Sonny," I advised, "change your sights—you're constantly high and right."

"I don't know Boyd," Sonny responded, "Something wrong—I just can't hold today. I'm afraid a sight change will just make things worse!" So, that's how the first five hits went.

At the break to reset the targets, I again advised a sight change. And again I got a similar response "Bad day, bad day, I just can't hold 'em." I feared telling Sonny his five hits were all in the head because that might spook him. The procedure was repeated on the second bank: I called "high and right" and Sonny would mutter "bad day." And again all five hits in the head.

When the last turkey fell, I ran over to the match director and had him stop the match, before the target setters could paint the targets. The director told the setters to reset the targets and by the time we walked down range the five turkeys were all standing. All had two hits in the head. I guess this proves Murphy's Law has an inverse—sometimes things are not as bad as they seem, or feel!

TJ: But what of yourself—have you done something particularly memorable?

BC: Well . . . yes. I shot at the Inaugural International. I had just built a new gun and I was sure everything was within specs. When the gun was inspected, the barrel was found to be too long. In truth, there were two mistakes: mine was that I thought the barrel length rule was from the bolt face to the end of the rifling which made my gun $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch too long. The other was the measurement rod was $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch too short when I taped it.

So, I asked the official, "You got a

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hacksaw?" He was shocked, "You're not going to hack off the barrel of this gun are you?" "What's a guy to do!", I said, "I just travelled 2,000 miles to shoot in this match so I'm not gonna let 1/8 of an inch stop me!"

Off I dashed to Manufacturers Row, got a hacksaw and borrowed a vice and hacked off 3/4 of an inch of barrel. Then ran over to RCBS's table, borrowed a case deburring tool and twisted it around until I had some semblance of a muzzle crown. Back up to the stat officer I ran and breathlessly presented my gun for reinspection just as I was being called to the line. Of course it checked out! "You're really going to shoot this thing," the officer asked. "Yep!" and off to the Chickens I dashed.

Amazingly, as horrible as it looked, the "hack job" didn't affect accuracy at all! I cleaned the Chickens and Pigs and as the tale of my metallurgical skill got around I started to attract a crowd. Everybody wanted to see the gun. After I cleaned the Turkeys and moved on the Rams, I had a regular gallery just like Arnold Palmer. By now, I was really having fun listening to comments like: "That fool country boy just chopped the end of his gun off."

So I hammed it up with a lot of Aw Shucks stuff. I got into my Creedmore, then just sort of relaxed. A voice called out "Hey buddy—where you gonna set your sights?" I knew I needed eight clicks of elevation at the Rams and that eight clicks would put the screw on a line parallel to the barrel, exactly one half turn. "Well, Ah rightly doesn't know—maybe's all ah's do is jus' give it a yank and use a little country windage," I drawled. With a flourish, I took my screwdriver and gave it a yank, exactly one half turn.

They just freaked out, "Holy Jeez you see that"—"I don't believe it"—"It'll never work" and other such things had me chuckling so hard it was difficult to keep my sights aligned. But, I cleaned the Rams and scored my first 80.

Back I go to get the gun rechecked. "How'd you do?" the official laughed. "Okay, I'd like to get my gun rechecked," I said. "Why?", he asked. "Because the rules say when you shot an 80 the gun has to be rechecked," I said. He was in shock! The crowd was murmuring. Never—I mean never—have I had so much fun!



HANDGUN HUNTING

Continued from page 24

job. In handguns the choices are much more limited and the knowledge of well designed bullets is of considerable importance as is the knowledge of anatomy of the animal and the ability to hit the right spot from the angle presented.

As a rule of thumb, it is very desirable for the bullet to strike about one-third of the way up from the bottom of the chest angled to strike the heart or lungs. In my opinion, this will give you the greatest margin of

error in bullet placement and still result in an efficient kill.

A gun I think well worth mentioning is the Browning .22 semi-automatic. I've been shooting one of the long, heavy barrel models with the full-length scope mount for a few months and I'm really impressed with it.

The one I have is outstandingly accurate with several varieties of ammunition. It is reliable beyond belief without a single jam even in quite cold temperatures.

One of my favorite games with it has been hitting empty shotshells and skipping them across the ice until I was either unable to see or hit them anymore. Most of the time it turned out to be unable to see them.

The long barrel model is a little longer than I personally like for a carrying .22 and it feels a little muzzle heavy to me after a couple boxes of shells. Think I'll cut it down to about six or seven inches and see what it feels like. If the rest of them are as good as the one I have, you can't go wrong in buying one. Even the out-of-the-box trigger pull is acceptable.



TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 51

grains of Unique makes an excellent load in the 900-1000 fps range for Colt Single Actions and S&W Model 25-5's.

For high performance loading in the stronger Ruger Blackhawks, there are a number of heavyweight bullets that will shoot even more accurately, at least in my experience, than the 260 grain bullets. If I had to pick just one heavyweight bullet for the Ruger .45 Colt it would be NEI's #310.451, a 310 grain Keith style semi-wadcutter, that like the 260 grain SWC's, has a large frontal area for maximum shock plus extra weight for penetration.

For use in the Ruger .45 Single Actions only, I prefer 22.0 grains of WW296 for right around 1200 fps. This load is adequate for anything I will ever run into in Idaho game fields and recoil, while noticeable, is not at the punishing stage. To my knowledge, Bullets By Bridges is the only source of 300 grain SWC bullets for those who do not cast their own.

Both 300 grain bullets designed for the .45-70, Lyman's #457191 and RCBS's #45-300FN are capable of very good performance in the .45 Colt if loaded properly. They are designed to be sized at .458", so I size them in three stages. First they go through a .457" sizing die, then through a .454" die, and finally through a .452" or .451" die. If the attempt is made to bring these bullets to .452" in one stage, the grease grooves disappear.

Factory loadings for the .45 Colt are still pretty sparse. The choice is 250-255 grain lead bullets at 850 fps or 225 grain hollow-points at 800-900 fps. This may soon change as custom loaders are starting to bring out "Plus P" .45 Colt loads. The jacketed bullet

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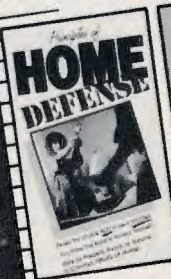


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situation has changed dramatically with Sierra (240 grain), Hornady (250 grain), and Speer (260 grain), all offering jacketed low-points. I've used all these with good success on silhouettes.

The .45 Colt will serve as a fine silhouette pistol if 240-260 grain bullets are used for chickens, pigs, and turkeys, and the 300 grainers reserved for the rams. It is unfortunate for the lovers of the .45 Colt that no one has seen fit to bring out a long range .45 Colt with precision sights. Perhaps the new Dan Wesson will fill the bill.

With proper handloads, the .45 Colt, which has been around since the Nineteenth Century, can be a first rate defensive, hunting, or silhouette cartridge. I hope both of us enter the Twenty-First Century together.



CLARK PIN MASTER

Continued from page 49

through more than a thousand rounds and, when the trigger of my normal competition gun went out and it decided to rock and roll, the Pin Master became my match gun as well. I'd love to say that it made me an instant match winner, but too many people have seen me shoot to buy that, and it's better to be truthful anyhow. Any mistakes weren't the fault of the gun for it worked perfectly through two matches.

All in all, the Clark Pin Master is a very pleasing gun, both to look at and to shoot. Jim Clark has built an enviable reputation for good custom guns for over 30 years and the Pin Master fits right in.



COR BON BULLETS

Continued from page 57

actually having two bullet cores in one. Briefly, the H-frame works by dividing the bullet jacket into two parts with a midline belt of copper jacket separating the two cores. The frontal core is soft lead and the jacket is relatively thin which facilitates expansion. The rear core is hard lead and the jacket is thicker to retard the front portion's expansion and thereby insure penetration.

The basic flaw in the H-frame design is that the cores and the jacket are separate and if flesh, gristle, bone or sinew gets in between the jacket and the core, it peels off the jacket like a banana. There is no integrity between the jacket and the core. Also, the front portion is prone to disintegrate on impact because it is too soft.

Various attempts have been made to make the core and jacket a cohesive whole. The Speer "Hot Core" process achieves this by pouring hot, molten lead into the jacket so the lead "sticks" to the jacket. The Remington "Core Lokt" is another example of an effort to harmonize jacket and core. But none of these bullet designs

remotely approach the latest bullet technology employed by Cor Bon.

Core bonding is the newest method of anchoring the core to the jacket and it is the only method that works 100%. The reason is chemistry—the copper jacket and the lead core become one in a new alloy. Dave Corbin explains the concept in his excellent new book, *The Directory of Custom Bullet Makers*.

"A recent development is the use of a non-solder bonded core. This technique uses a special fluxing chemical to lower the surface tension of the molten lead enough to allow lead atoms to migrate into the copper-zinc matrix of the jacket material itself. The chemical also floats both copper and lead oxides so that migration of lead atoms can take place in the absence of an oxide barrier.

"Borrowing from the semi-conductor (micro-chip) fabrication analogy, the 'doping' of the jacket with lead atoms continues with elevated temperature and extended time, so that an actual alloy bond results instead of a solder bond. The alloy bond far exceeds the 1,000 psi tensile strength of lead."

Corbin goes on to relate the results of extensive testing of core bonded bullets:

"The bonded core bullet seldom if ever (never in a long series of tests conducted by Corbin and by hunters cooperating with Corbin) is found with the core separated from the jacket. In most instances, the retained weight is within 75% to 100% of original weight regardless of the degree of expansion. This makes sense because a force great enough to separate core and jacket would have to be enough to either totally abrade away the core (very unlikely since even sand traps fail to do this) or to cause total destruction of the jacket."

There is much more information on the core bonding technology and concise, scientific explanations of the defects in the H-frame or partition design in Corbin's interesting and informative book, which I highly recommend to serious hunters. The book is available from Corbin, 600 Industrial Circle, Dept. AH, White City, OR, 97503.

Which brings us to the Cor Bon Custom Bullets for handgun hunters. Cor Bon offers the new bonded core construction in only two handgun calibers, .44 Magnum and .454 Casull. However, there are also rifle bullets available, with thinner jackets for handgun velocities, for the more popular wildcat calibers found in the various custom made XP-100s and Contenders. Calibers include .375, .308, .270, .423 and 7mm.

Noted handgun hunter Larry Kelly of Mag-Na-Port has championed the Cor Bon bullets on many hunts. Larry's extensive handgun hunting adventures have yet to yield a single failure of the Cor Bon bullets—and he's shot Cape buffalo and lion! Concerning the Cor Bon 280 grain bonded core bullet for the wildcat .375 JDJ caliber, Larry says:

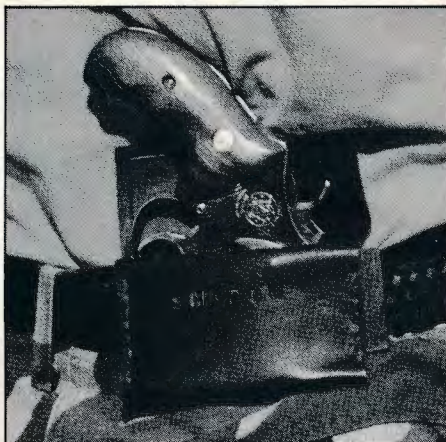
Continued on page 86

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M9 CONTROVERSY

Continued from page 59

'unfair' to Smith and Wesson and SIG and ordered a new test, but exempted Beretta from the competition on the basis that Beretta had passed the XM9 test.

SIG refused to participate because, SIG claimed, it is unfair to give Beretta a 'bye' when the SIG P-226 also had passed XM9.

Smith and Wesson declined to participate in the test because the company claimed it is unfair to exempt Beretta.

The test began with only two entries, Ruger's P-85 and the CZ-75. The test was discontinued on April 29, 1988 prior to completion when the May 10 call for an entire new test was issued.

Beretta is not exempt from the new test.

Since the XM9 began in 1981, two new 9mm pistols have entered the market, the Glock 17 and the Ruger P-85. A Ruger spokesman told *American Handgunner* that the P-85 will enter the new competition.

A spokesman for Glock said, 'No comment' when asked by *American Handgunner* if Glock planned to enter the new test.

According to the terms of the contract awarded to Beretta at the completion of the XM9 test, over 180,000 pistols have been delivered to the armed forces at this time. If the new test results in any winner other than Beretta, the armed services could have two different 9mm pistols. The original intent of the XM9 was to standardize on one issue-sidearm.

American Handgunner will follow the new round of testing closely and keep you informed of the results.



POINT

No problem exists with the military M9 pistol. US Government engineers have extensively examined the metallurgy, dimensions and manufacturing of the M9 pistol and can find nothing which indicates that the cause of the breakage lies with the weapon. US Government examiners have commented on the remarkable quality of the weapon.¹

M9 pistols are not to be fired for familiarization or training purposes. Users shall inspect the front inside corners of the locking block cutout for any indications of cracks.²

The two incidents occurred with non-NATO certified ammunition during non-standard, continuous endurance firing. Preliminary analysis by Beretta indicates that the ammunition may produce pressures exceeding 50,000 psi, or almost double the pressure of a standard cartridge.³

Two incidents of complete slide breakage in the subject 9mm pistol have occurred recently. The first was encountered by U.S. Navy while firing non-NATO 9mm ammunition. The second was realized by the U.S. Army dur-

COUNTER-POINT

ing conduct of engineering tests. This failure occurred while firing U.S. 9mm M882 ammunition.⁴

One million slides of this type have been manufactured to date. No other reports of breakage of this type have ever occurred in the history of the weapon. Law enforcement and military confidence in the weapon remains high.⁵

Subject: Officer Safety

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in mind, it is our suggestion that if your weapon is approaching or has passed this number, you no longer carry it as your duty weapon until such time as Beretta USA finds a permanent solution to the matter.

IF YOU HAVE PASSED 3,000 ROUNDS, DO NOT FIRE THE WEAPON UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. IT MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY.⁶

1. Beretta USA Corp., May 10, 1988, "M9 Slide Update"

2. Department of the Navy, Naval Weapons Support Center, March 1, 1988; ref. COMNAV-SEASYSCOM msg P221942Z Feb 88 (NOTAL)

3. Beretta, p. 1

4. Navy, p. 1

5. Beretta, p. 2

6. Minneapolis Police Department, Interoffice Communication, Subject: Officer Survival, March 31, 1988

BOOK REVIEWS

Revolvers 1870-1940 by Ian V. Hogg. 74 pages, 152 illustrations. Hardbound, format 5 1/2 by 8 3/4 inches. Arms and Armour Press, London, 1984. Available from Blacksmith Corporation, Box 424, Southport, CT 06490. \$12.95.

The British writer of this little collector's guide is well-known to American readers for several more extensive works in the handgun field. In this volume, his intended purpose was to supply a quick reference that would be helpful to revolver collectors, giving information on identification, condition, and values. The book succeeds on all points.

In the introduction, his advice on condition wisely follows our NRA standards. His price guidelines are as of 1984-85, but they still afford a good starting place. And, some of the items haven't changed in value that much over the past years. Values are given by "groups," identified by letters "A" through "E," and they are given both in British Pounds and American Dollars. On page eleven, under the heading "Recommended Reading," there is a good list of revolver books for those who want to go further in a particular category.

The remainder of the book has excellent photos and drawings of 152 revolvers, in alphabetical order, from Adams to Whitney. All nations are represented, and even I encountered a few I hadn't seen before. The photo captions are more than just labels—they contain a lot of specific data on the revolvers shown.

A beginning collector would find this little book invaluable. While it is written from a British viewpoint, Mr. Hogg recognizes the differences in availability and desirability between items in the English and American markets. My only complaint, and it is a very subjective one, is that the dimensions of the guns are all in the metric mode. But, this is a minor point. It's an excellent little book, and I will probably use it often as a quick reference. It would be particularly useful to gun shops and gun traders.

J. B. Wood.

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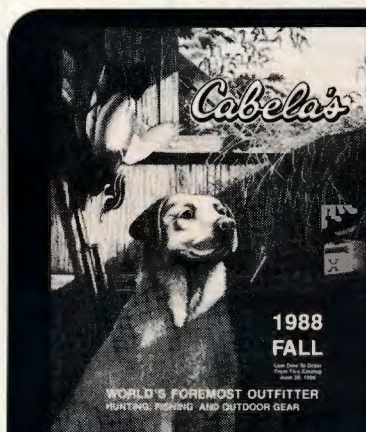


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*All AUTOMAG II models are now made with a half-cock hammer position. Owners of the early standard model are invited to return their guns to the factory so that this feature may be added, free of charge.



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Continued from page 83

"It is an outstanding bullet. It performs perfectly at ranges from 60 to 250 yards, and I plan to continue using it."

Cor Bon also offers solid bullets designed for pure penetration, not expansion. The solid bullet is necessary for reaching the vitals deep inside layers of steel-cable muscles and iron-strong bones of such animals as elephant and Cape buffalo. The Cor Bon "Penetrators" feature a massive jacket to drive through the toughest game. The .454 Casull Penetrator shown in the accompanying photo was found in the dirt 50 yards on the other side of a 700 pound bull Kudu and it could be loaded again! Now that's bullet integrity!



The Cor Bon .454 Casull Penetrator bullet, l to r, a new bullet, a sectioned bullet and a slug recovered after full penetration of a trophy-class kudu bull.

My personal experience with Cor Bon bullets is limited to but one handgun kill and five rifle kills, all with the .375 caliber. The handgun kill, from a J.D. Jones custom Contender in .375 JDJ, took place at 241 paces on a deer-sized Impala ram. Not much excitement, the animal collapsed in its tracks. The bonded core 280 grain soft point completely penetrated the small animal.

My other kills with a .375 H&H Magnum rifle used the thicker jacketed 280 grain soft point (the handgun version has a thinner jacket due to the lower velocity) and one was spectacular. The photo shows the recovered bullet from a 550 pound Wildebeest, a notoriously tough customer, which shoved the big bull back onto his haunches when he was slammed in the center-chest from a frontal angle. The slug mushroomed to the size of a fifty cent piece and penetrated about three feet. It was found in the stomach contents.

What, no jello tests? No vaporized melons? No pine boards or wet newspaper? No, the results are not only irrelevant but also misleading when you try to pass judgement on hunting bullets based on penetration and expansion in artificial mediums. I once saw a 165 grain .30 caliber rifle bullet impact a whitetail deer on the shoulder, skid along the bone, slide up the neck and exit by the ear—on the same side of the animal! Both exit and entrance holes on the same side!

Elmer Keith, in *Hell, I Was There*, relates many tales of bullets doing weird things, like the .375 bullet that Elmer stuck in an elk's heart only to hear it whistle over

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The Cor Bon .375 bullet for the wildcat .375 JDJ, usually found in custom chambered Contenders.

Left, a sectioned Cor Bon 280 grain bullet with a recovered slug from a big game animal. Compare to the .375 Speer Grand Slam, right, recovered from the shoulder of an African lion. The difference in expansion is dramatic!

his head when it turned 180° and ricocheted back at him. Elmer says the entrance and exit holes weren't more than three inches apart.

When you read some great guru of the gun somberly relating the penetration of Brand X in wet newspaper, take it with a grain of salt. Most likely, this sage of the sixgun has done his hunting behind a typewriter and knows nothing about bullet performance on big game. Wait until you have about half a dozen, preferably more, kills under your belt before you judge a bullet. I've killed six animals with Cor Bons and witnessed Massad Ayooob kill a gemsbok in the Kalahari Desert with a seventh Cor Bon bullet. Those seven kills tell me something meaningful—the Cor Bons perform. Unlike some others I've shot into big game.

I've seen hunting bullets turn 90 degrees; I've recovered bullets, Winchester 510 grain softs from the same box of

ammo, with drastically different shapes depending on if bone or muscle was hit. I am absolutely convinced that the only valid test of a hunting bullet, be it rifle or handgun, is killing game.

Cor Bon Custom Bullets have killed game with devastating lethality, both in my hands and many other hunter's. The new bonded core construction works far better than any other design that I've ever tried, including the "partition" and other proprietary designs. The only drawback to the Cor Bon bullets is their price, about a buck apiece. But when you consider the costs of today's big game hunting, a dollar for a bullet is a tiny fraction of your expenses. It is indeed foolish to pinch the penny and spend the pound.

For a catalog and price list of Cor Bon Custom Bullets, write the innovative firm at P.O. Box 10126, Dept. AH, Detroit, MI, 48210.



MEET JOHN FRENCH

Continued from page 71

the first 10mm auto pistol ever.

More recently, John built the prototype rifle for another wildcat cartridge, the .425 Express, in 1987. Federal Cartridge Company and Sturm, Ruger Company are currently evaluating this cartridge, which John helped to design.

John displayed a knack for things mechanical at an early age. When he was four-years-old his uncle helped him take apart a single-shot .410 shotgun and reassemble it. He was intrigued with the intricate interplay of working parts, visualizing how one affects another.


By the time he was 14 he built his first custom rifle and two years later he handcrafted a double rifle from scratch. Here's a hunk of steel, here's a file—make a double rifle. He did.

For five years he worked his way through college by working as a gunsmith but then in 1972 John opened Third Stone Gunworks in Duarte, Calif. where he plys his trade in a one-man-shop. Curious about how he came up with the name of his shop, I asked him what Third Stone Gunworks means. "I wanted to convey the idea that I can handle any gun project in the

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world. Well, I thought World Wide Gunshop was kinda corny and Universal Gunworks was sorta hokey. So I came up with Third Stone Gunworks because the Earth is the third planet out from the sun," John explained.

In the early 1970s John was an avid and successful benchrest shooter. Many competitors at the exacting game of shooting tiny groups noticed the incredible accuracy and workmanship of John's rifles. This led to many orders for complete guns and also accurizing of other rifles. His extensive experience in benchrest laid the foundations for a thorough understanding of what it takes to build super-accurate firearms, be they rifles or handguns.

I have a custom XP-100 from John in 7mm BR that shoots under an inch at 200 yards. Folks, that's less than a half-minute of angle!

Muzzlebrakes are nothing new to John. Since the early 1970s he's been experimenting and installing these devices on various types and calibers of handguns, always seeking to improve the breed. I can personally attest to the effectiveness of his compensator design on my Buff Buster .44 Magnums, that tack-driving XP-100 and a nifty L-frame .357 he makes. I've tried his .45 auto comps and they are also remarkable at reducing muzzle rise.

In addition to building complete custom guns, John finds time to do some of the finest trigger jobs I have ever had the pleasure to squeeze. He has the knowledge and patience to take the rough grittiness out of factory actions and turn them into smooth, crisp delights.

One of John's specialties is shortening the trigger pull by up to 45% on double-action revolvers. This is accomplished with no sacrifice of reliability or smoothness. I have fired a S&W revolver with this superb modification and it is a distinct advantage.

John has not neglected improving trigger pulls on the new breed of double-action autos. Almost all of these guns can use some help! I have range-tested a SIG P-220 and a P-226 which John had reworked and I can attest to the vast improvement. Out-of-the-box, the triggers had been heavy and full of creep until John worked his magic. Now the triggers are smooth and easy to manage.

My friend and shooting partner Mike Dalton carries a French-tuned P-220 on duty as a reserve officer.

John French is an extremely talented gunsmith, but I have often thought that the word "gunsmith" isn't complete enough to describe the full range of talents of this remarkable craftsman. The word doesn't convey the pride of workmanship, the striving for excellence, the commitment to quality.

Designer, engineer, artist, machinist, craftsman all need to be included in the scope of John French's skills and talents.

For more information about the services of John French, write to him at Third Stone Gunworks, 2400 E. Huntington Dr., Duarte, CA, 91010.



THE AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 38

woman on the floor: "If you move, I'll blow you away."

The leering gunman is alone in the doorway now, the predator triumphant. He turns with one final warning for Brooker and his secretary. "If you chase me or call the cops, I'll blow your motherf***in' brains out!" Then he turns, and is gone.

Shaken, Brooker rises to his feet, helping up the near hysterical Sarah Boleware. The fear is not entirely gone, but it is giving way to righteous indignation. The gold chain and the few thousand dollars are not in the forefront of his consciousness: terror is, the terror the gunman has caused.

Brooker darts into the back room. There he keeps the office's second protection gun. It is a Savage model 77 pump shotgun, its barrel cut to legal length by the original owner who had given it to Brooker for a rent settlement. An enthusiastic deer hunter, Brooker has loaded the gun with his favorite whitetail shell, 12-gauge Magnum Federal #1 buckshot.

Brooker runs out the door clutching the loaded shotgun and yells at his secretary. "Call the police!" Turning the corner of the little office building, he sees Johnson running, about a 50 yard shot from the cover of the concrete structure. It would be an easy shot, with at least seven or eight buckshot pellets probably striking at that distance, and there are no bystanders in the way. But Brooker doesn't want to kill his tormentor. He wants to capture him, to watch the police take him to jail.

The real estate man jumps into the company car that's parked at the curb, a brown Dodge 600 compact sedan. It's heading the wrong way, and he has to drive down a street, cut over, and come back up. One hand is on the wheel. The other holds the pump gun upright in the front seat, like the dashboard shotgun carrier in a police cruiser.

The chase runs more than half a mile. Brooker sees his antagonist up ahead now, still with the shiny revolver in his hand and still on foot. He runs across the street in front of Brooker, right to left, sprinting across the lawn of a suburban home.

Brooker squeals the little Dodge to a stop by the sidewalk, the left side of his car toward the gunman, who is almost at the corner of the house. Brooker yells for the robber to halt.

Johnson turns.

So does his gun.



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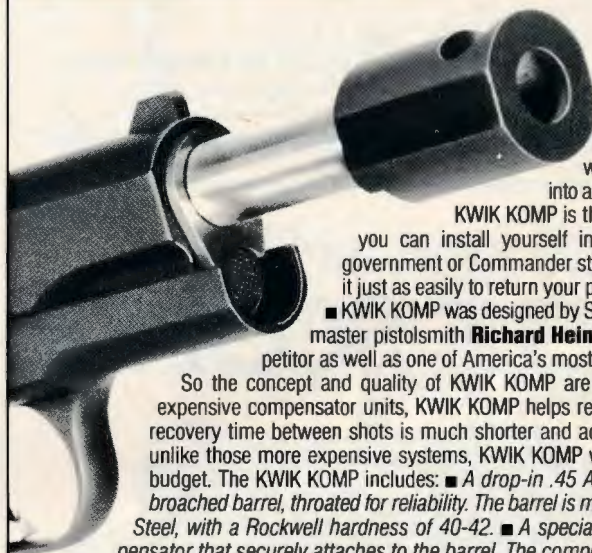
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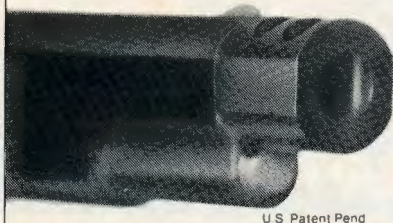
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What happens now takes probably no longer than a second, but in the mind of Bill Brooker it will be the longest second of his life. It is said that those who face death sometimes see their lives pass before their eyes. The images that flicker through the mind's eye of Bill Brooker are those of his family, of a long-forgotten small arms instructor from his many years of National Guard service, telling him how quickly the enemy can kill, and of Terry Johnson growling, "If you chase me or call the cops, I'll blow your motherf***in' brains out!"

And then there is no image but the tiny black eye of the .38's muzzle as Johnson brings it around in his left hand, half turned, as if to fire over his right shoulder at Brooker, who is only 50 feet away.

Brooker's left hand is still frozen on the steering wheel. His right hand, on the pistol grip of the shotgun, swings the weapon up and over in one last desperate reach for survival. The slide of the pump gun touches his bicep just above the elbow and Brooker can see the long black snout of the barrel pointing at his antagonist, can still see the .38 coming up on him.

He fires.

He does not feel the recoil of the 12-gauge Magnum blast. He sees the muzzle of the shotgun jump, but he also sees Terry Johnson jerk violently as if cuffed by a giant unseen hand. Johnson sprawls to the ground, the stainless revolver with its black neoprene grips only inches from his hand.

Brooker pulls the Dodge out of the roadway so there won't be an accident and jumps from the car, the shotgun still in hand. It hasn't yet sunk in that Terry Johnson is no longer a threat.

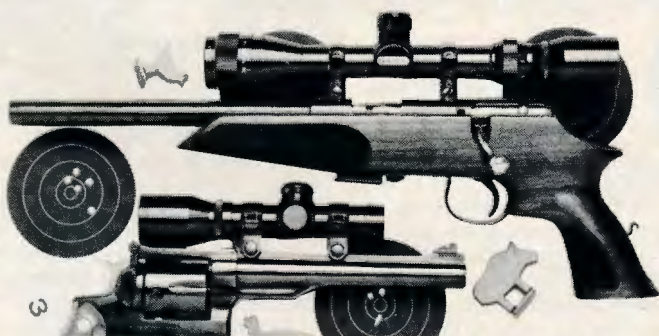
Johnson moves and Brooker, not knowing how badly he is hit, levels the shotgun at his head. "How does it feel?" he yells at the downed gunman, meaning how does it feel to be the one on the dangerous end of a gun.

But Terry Johnson can't hear him. Most of the blast of buckshot, 15 of the 20 lead .30-caliber spheres, have caught Johnson in the posterior right side just behind the lateral midline. The pellets course through heart and lungs, right to left, most of them lodging on the opposite side. Johnson tries to push himself up on his arms, then collapses.

The movement startles Brooker, who realizes to his horror that the man might go for the gun again. He can't remember if he pumped the action to chamber a fresh shell or not. He does so, sending a smoking empty spinning from the gun as a second Federal load racks into the chamber. It has been about 15 seconds since he fired the shot, but time is suspended, meaningless now amidst the enormity of what is happening.

At that precise moment, Officer Gail Bowen of the Florida City Police Department rounds the corner and brings her patrol car to a halt. The message from Sarah Boleware had already been transmitted, and Bowen had been responding when a man had flagged her down and told her of a

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suspect fitting Johnson's description running southbound on 6th Avenue toward Lucy Street. Aiming her cruiser in that direction, she had heard the shot.

Now she exits the vehicle to see what she will later describe as "a white male standing with a shotgun in his hand . . . he took the action of the shotgun slide and brought it to the back ejecting a shell and bringing it forward again." Advising Dispatch of what was happening, she then moves forward toward Brooker.

And something very unusual happens. Officers are taught to treat any unknown person with a gun as a hostile, and to cover them with a drawn service revolver. Responsible civilian instructors warn their students that responding cops are quite likely to mistake them for bad guys and shoot them if they're standing around brandishing guns.

She sees the prostrate, blood-soaked man Brooker is standing over and she knows he has shot him down. Yet her five years of police work have given her a feel for criminal and victim. At this moment, she does not feel threatened. Instead she orders him, "Put the gun down."

Brooker stands speechless, unresponsive for a second, still in shock. He has just shot a man who terrorized him with a gun, and that man now lies there with the same revolver within his reach. It is unthinkable to put down his own gun, to be vulnerable to this man again.

Bowen shouts again, "Put the gun down!" Brooker finds his voice and yells back, "He had a gun at my head! He had a gun at my head!" Brooker points to the ground near Johnson and cries, "There's the gun. There's the gun."

And though she instinctively senses this man doesn't want to harm her, Bowen does what she has to do. Her hand falls to her holster and she commands, "Put the gun down or I'm going to shoot you!"

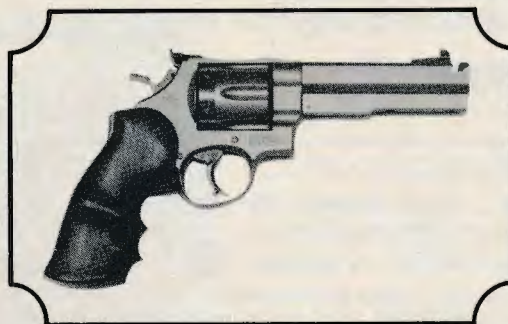
She does not have to complete the draw. Brooker complies, bending and laying the shotgun on the lawn, out of reach of Johnson. Bowen strides forward, and now she can see the fallen Charter Arms .38 in the grass next to the fallen man. She looks at Johnson in time to see him let out a deep sigh.

It is his last breath.

Bill Brooker did a lot of things right and a few things that could have been better handled. He was correct in judging that going for the .38 in his out-of-reach drawer would have been suicidal.

A handgun is generally a better weapon to employ than a shotgun during foot or auto pursuit due to superior handling ease and mobility. Yet Brooker's S&W was loaded with 158 grain roundnose lead ammo, a notoriously poor stopper. It is entirely possible that Johnson could have taken one or more hits from it and been able to return fire and kill or cripple Brooker, instead of being sledged down decisively by the single shotgun blast.

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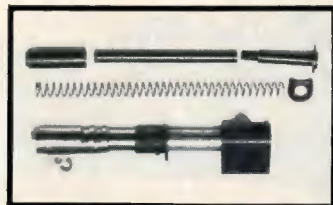


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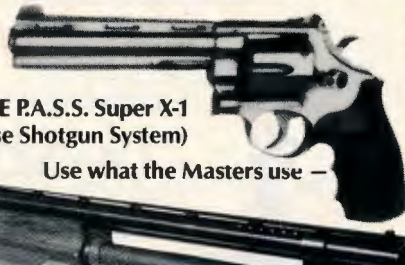
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Still, when we re-enacted the shooting with a similar shotgun in the cramped front seat of the same small Dodge, we found the shotgun muzzle hung up on the upper part of the car door nearly half the time. Brooker was lucky that it didn't snag when he needed it.

The critical question, of course, is whether Brooker should have given chase. The anti-gun *Miami Herald* accused Brooker of being a vigilante who had hunted down Johnson and shot him from behind to recover his money and punish him for the robbery. In fact, Brooker had ample opportunity to shoot Johnson several times over from safe cover and didn't, because his intent was clearly to capture rather than kill.

In attempting the capture, Brooker risked his own life. Our re-creations, on shooting ranges and at the death scene, showed that Johnson could have easily shot Brooker to death within a second if Brooker hadn't reacted defensively. (There is reason to believe that Johnson turned to shoot, saw the shotgun coming down, and was beginning to turn away in the instant when Brooker fired. Brooker, of course, could not have been expected to perceive that under the life-threatening stress of the moment. As Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes put it so well, "Detached reflection is not expected in the presence of an upraised knife." Let alone the presence of an upraised Charter Arms .38, loaded in this case with a mix of ammo ranging from midrange wadcutters to +P+ hollowpoints. All five chambers of the gun were loaded at the time of Johnson's death.

Basically, pursuit of fleeing gunmen is most unwise for civilians, even though the law allows it. Had Johnson prevailed and killed Brooker during the gunfight on the lawn, he and his no-charge defense attorneys would have argued self-protection and might have made a case. The law holds that once a participant has broken off the fight and is challenged by another he is now technically the defender in a second conflict and the one who challenged him is technically the aggressor. Fortunately, Florida law is clear on this and Johnson would probably have gone to prison for killing the pursuing victim. Which would have been cold comfort to the dead Brooker and his bereaved family.

Brooker's ordering his secretary to call the police clearly showed that he had no intention of administering "do it yourself justice." What he didn't realize was that he had arranged for police to be notified that an armed robber was running around, and that he had set the stage for a mistaken identity situation in which he himself would be seen by responding officers only as "a man with a gun, there now."

What if the first responding cop had been a plainclothesman with drawn gun, whom Brooker might have mistaken for Johnson's accomplice? Multiple tragic scenarios suggest themselves. Gail Bowen, the uniformed cop who was first at the scene, must have since asked herself many times what would have happened if her character judgment had been wrong. She had stepped away from the

cover of her cruiser with a holstered weapon, and had Brooker been Johnson he almost certainly could have shot her to death before she could have even cleared her sidearm.

Handgunner readers who followed the case some issues ago where a cop "instinctively" recognized an armed citizen as a good guy instead of challenging him (resulting in the citizen shooting down a California copkiller) felt that cop's reaction was unbelievable. There have certainly been cases of well-meaning "armed citizens" being shot down by mistake when they attempted to assist police in shootouts. Yet what happened in the previous case clearly took place here: Gail Bowen obviously relied on her gut instincts, and in so doing perhaps kept Brooker from being killed by "mistaken identity friendly fire," a pattern of tragedy that has claimed too many good guys already.

Bill Brooker was charged with manslaughter. His was one of several incidents within a few days in which Miami-area citizens had killed criminals in self defense, and the *Herald* and other self-righteous editorialists were raving about "death-wish vigilantes" and home-grown Bernhard Goetzes. One of those citizens had been Prentice Rasheed, a black businessman whose home-made booby trap had unintentionally electrocuted a burglar. When the Grand Jury freed Rasheed, the *Herald* and others practically foamed at the mouth.

Clearly, a scapegoat was needed. Would it be the elderly woman who slammed the window down on the intruder climbing in a window and then beat him to death with a club? Certainly not.

But Brooker was white and had shot a black man, and the autopsy showed that the blast had entered behind the lateral midline as Johnson turned to bring his gun up on Brooker. When that happens, the DA has a "shot in the back" case that can be made to sound like an ambush murder to a layman. Indeed, virtually every *Herald* article on the highly publicized shooting referred to Brooker as having "shot Johnson in the back as he fled."

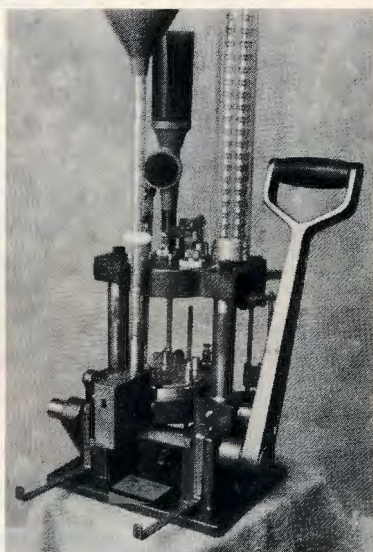
Brooker hired famous Miami defense attorney Jeff Weiner, who I thought handled the case brilliantly. Through press conferences, he made it clear to the public that Brooker, not the dead robber, was the victim. Though the press tried to make the shooting look racially motivated, a large amount of the community support that filled the Bill Brooker Defense Fund came from the black community. Brooker had lived there, been a fair and compassionate property owner instead of a slumlord, and had created many jobs there. The only racial connotation in the whole incident was the cruelly demeaning statement of the armed robber to one of his black victims: "Nigger, run!"

Odds were overwhelmingly in Brooker's favor as trial approached. Knowledgeable Miami lawyers were quoting 97% chance of acquittal. But the armed citizen was suffering the torments of the damned. "It was like I had a big red 'K' on my forehead, for 'Killer,'"

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Brooker told me sadly. "People couldn't see me as *me* anymore. All they saw was that I had killed a man. If my family and my church hadn't stood by me so strongly, I don't think I could have taken it."

The pressures were enormous. Physicians diagnosed a severe heart problem that Brooker, in his mid-40s, had shown no signs of before. They said that the stress of trial might be too much for his heart to stand.

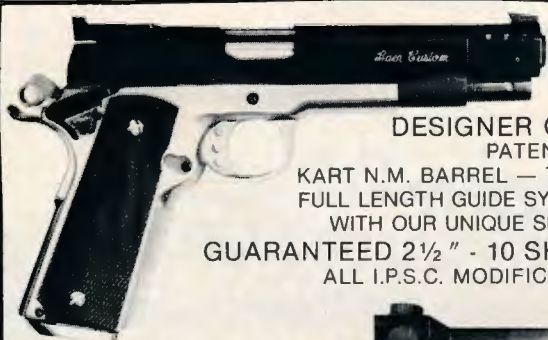
Meanwhile, the DA's office was well aware that they were trying to send to prison a man most citizens thought had acted in self-defense. "We didn't think we could win a guilty verdict from a jury," one of their spokesmen said later. They offered a plea bargain: no jail time, and withheld adjudication that would allow Brooker's record to be completely cleared in perhaps three years. It would also save the tens of thousands of dollars that Brooker, who had already poured a fortune into the defense, would have had to spend to try the case.

"It was an enormous weight off my shoulders," Brooker told me when it was over. Most people he knew understood that he wasn't "admitting he was dirty," that it was a medical decision more than anything else. The only real loss is the inability, with the same status as a convicted felon for the next few years, to have guns on hand. He feels a bit unprotected in the now-gunless office, and the deer hunts that were once the high point of his recreation are now spent wistfully with a camera.

There's little doubt in my mind that Brooker would have won, and none at all that the shooting was a justifiable homicide in self defense. The case against him was ludicrously weak. At one point when I was on the defense team the prosecutor asked me in deposition if my opinion would change if I could be persuaded that Terry Johnson was turning in an "innocent" manner toward Brooker. I asked, "Is the State going to contend that Terry Johnson was *innocently* turning with the revolver?" The prosecutor snapped back, "I'm here to ask you questions."

The Bill Brooker case is over now. In the moment of the encounter itself, the good guy won and the bad guy died. In the legal aftermath, the good guy won as much as the heart condition apparently induced by the stress of the case allowed him to fight for. As an unexpected bonus, the injustice suffered by Brooker turned his lawyer Jeff Weiner, an influential defense attorney and popular liberal talk-show host, from a vocal anti-gunner to an equally outspoken defender of the rights of responsible armed citizens.

And, like every such incident, it leaves in its wake lessons that other armed citizens can learn less painfully than the participant. It is unwise for a number of reasons to pursue an armed criminal once the initial threat has passed. The citizen who has grabbed a gun to defend his life will be reflexively unwilling to set that gun down, even when challenged by a uniformed police officer, and the tragic



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implications of that are obvious. Once the court-dictated interval has washed Bill Brooker's record clean again, I would advise him to apply for a concealed carry permit and to wear his favorite handgun, a 15-shot Smith & Wesson Model 59 9mm auto, where he can reach it. There were numerous moments during the robbery in which Johnson's attention lapsed away from Brooker to the cashbox or to other victimized employees. Those would have been perhaps more advantageous times to act, had Brooker but been armed with a concealed handgun he could have reached effectively.

Finally, if I were Officer Gail Bowen's sergeant I would call her into my office and sternly counsel her never again to approach any armed man as she did Brooker, but instead to maintain distance, take cover behind her cruiser's engine, and have her weapon up and ready. Then, as soon as she left my office, I'd thank my lucky stars for having in my command an officer with the kind of character assessment skills under stress that Bowen exhibited that day, and with the courage to act upon them, thus preventing tragedy.



INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

Continued from page 26

A third characteristic of good instructors is that they are results-oriented rather than technique-oriented. They realize that shooting stance and hold are only means to an end, not an end in themselves. Maybe you've run across an instructor who felt he knew the one and only way to shoot a pistol. "Bend that elbow a little more . . . okay, now lock the shooting arm . . . move that foot back a little . . . maybe a bit further . . . okay you've got it. Now shoot like that."

By contrast, a good coach will make recommendations based on what the targets show. "Your shots are stringing out horizontally. I suspect that the support hand is applying inconsistent pressure from shot to shot. Let's try straightening out the support arm and keeping the amount of pressure the same for every shot. Now let's shoot a few more groups."

Finally, to be really effective the coach must have good communication skills. He doesn't have to be an orator, but he must be articulate enough to clearly explain what he wants you to do. A good communicator uses metaphors, similes and images to get his points across; reinforces important points by repetition; asks for feedback to ensure that what you heard was what he said. Some instructors are making use of videotaping, both to present lecture material and to analyze student performance.

In choosing a shooting school it's important that you clearly recognize your own goals and needs. For example, if your primary concern is personal defense, consider Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute or Massad Ayoob's Lethal Force Institute. In addition to teaching shooting

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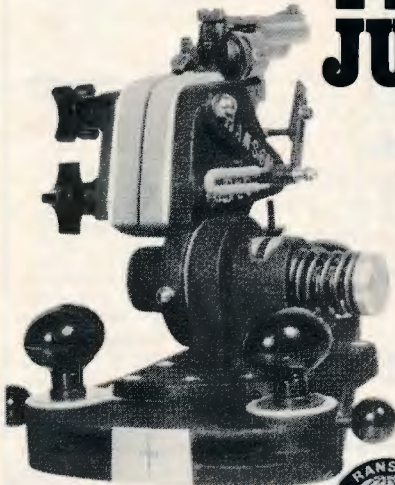
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skills these institutions provide training in the mental, tactical, and legal aspects of self defense; and the fact that they have been in business and flourishing for a number of years would seem to provide ample evidence that their methods are successful.

Shooting Schools

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Plaxco Academy of Practical Shooting
Rt. 1, Box 203
Roland, AR 72135

Lethal Force Institute
P.O. Box 122
Concord, NH 03301

Leatham Shooting Institute
P.O. Box 1291
Mesa, AZ 85201

Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting
503 Stonewall
Memphis, TN 38112

International Shootist Incorporated
P.O. Box 5254
Mission Hills, CA 91345

American Pistol Institute
P.O. Box 401
Paulden, AZ 86334

Several other prominent shooting schools are run by people who were, or are, top level IPSC competitors and of course tend to specialize in the competitive aspect. Don't forget, though, that they also offer basic shooting classes that are ideal for the beginning shooter no matter what his goals. These are simply instruction on how to shoot effectively—the motivation is up to you. For the intermediate or advanced competitor, instruction is available up to just about any level you want to go.

Two shooting coaches I can recommend without reservation from personal experience are J. Michael Plaxco (Plaxco Academy) and Rob Leatham (Leatham Shooting Institute). Both, needless to say, are outstanding competitive shooters and both are excellent instructors. I consider the courses provided by these two men to be the best shooting investments I've made, and I plan to get further coaching from them in the future.

As enthusiastic as I am about the value of good coaching, I should point out a couple of possible problem areas. For one thing, if you are totally inexperienced with handgun shooting these schools and coaches may not be for you. Not that they can't teach you, but it's a bit like getting Mario Andretti or Niki Lauda to do driver training. Your local gun club, or the NRA, should be able to find you a capable instructor who can teach you firearm safety, basic gun handling and gun courtesy, how to load and unload your firearm,

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and so forth. Once you have these basic skills you'll be in a position to get the maximum benefit from a shooting school.

Make sure you have good equipment—and by “good” I don't mean custom-built, basket-stamped, hand-checked, or gold-plated. I mean *reliable*. Skipping back to our analogy of a cross-country motor trip, a pickup truck with a well-tuned engine and good tires will get us to our destination faster than a temperamental race car.

Keep your expectations realistic. Your coach is a guide, not a magician. That road map we talked about earlier will show you the way to your goal, but you still have to do the driving. The coach can set you on the right path. After that you should plan on at least a few months of training before things start falling into place.

One last tip: the major cost in attending a shooting school is usually not the tuition, but the travel and lodging costs. If you have a few friends who are interested in a course, and have access to adequate range facilities, consider having the instructor come to you.



COP TALK

Continued from page 22

uniformed officer when he drew his gun, 1.2 suspects in his off duty situations, and 1.75 suspects per encounter in civilian status. The cop in question *always* carries spare ammo, even on his own time: “I’ve never had to fire, and hope I never will, but the encounter patterns are telling me something that I should probably prepare for,” he says.

Suspect Responses showed that in 18 incidents involving 28 persons, an average of 1.6 suspects per encounter, no subject assaulted the officer after being placed at gunpoint. Suspects ranged from those with knives to firearms including shotguns and rifles, and included some who turned out to be unarmed but were confronted under circumstances sufficiently threatening to warrant the officer's aiming his gun at them. Some 86% (24) froze at gunpoint, and submitted to arrest. Two froze, then fled, turning themselves in shortly thereafter. One fled, then stopped and surrendered to the officer and another who fled escaped and remained at large.

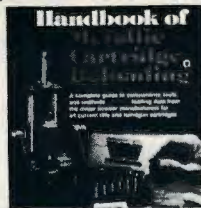
Involved Officer Input. The subject of this survey comments, “I guess I’ve been awfully lucky. None of us got hurt in those incidents. If I knew then what I know now about how easily I could have been killed by those men I held at gunpoint, I probably would have shot one or more of them. I’ve got a zero exposure rate based on experience in domestic disturbances, which kill a lot of cops; either I’m a great bullsh—er with those ticked-off spouses, or I’ve been lucky again. Looking at it all at once shows me I need to pay more attention to cover—and I have in the last few encounters—and how easy it is for an officer to have to fire. Most of mine froze—I always tried to have a superior position, and I’ve got kind of a gruff voice that freezes some peo-

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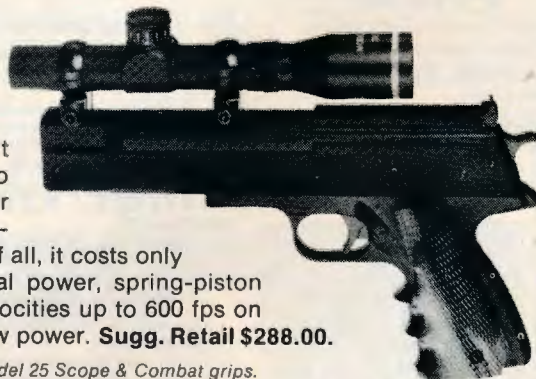
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ple, and I know some of the people I faced were just soft punks, though a lot of them weren't. Against a hard guy who isn't scared of a gun pointed at him, well, you can see why so many officers do have to drop the hammer. Like I said, I've been lucky."

The survey questions that most got this officer's attention were, "In how many of the pistol encounters was the gun held in both hands?" and "How often did you have to react and reach for your gun instead of already having it in your hand?" He'd had warning enough to draw a 12-gauge loaded with 00 buck in three of the 18 confrontations.

However, breakdown showed that in his handgun encounters, 73% of the time, against 78% of his opponents, he had faced the danger with the pistol in only one hand. Furthermore, he'd had to react and draw a handgun 50% of the time against 54% of the potentially lethal criminal suspects he had faced.

"That was particularly sobering," the officer said when we shut off the calculator. "I've been doing a disproportionately large amount of my practice with my gun already out and in two hands. I intend to work on that."

Have YOU, brother officer, sat down and looked at every situation where you had to draw a gun in your time on The Job, and broken it down to establish "patterns of encounter"? If not, now's the time.

After you've sat down and done it, feel free to put your results together and send it to Mas Ayoob, Lethal Force Institute, P.O. Box 122, Concord, NH 03301. I guarantee to keep your name totally confidential. Feel free to include actual shooting incidents, but what I'm also looking for here is the stuff we made this column of, something that has never been done before: *COMPILING THE PROFILES OF CASES WHERE COPS TAKE SUSPECTS AT GUNPOINT AND DON'T WIND UP HAVING TO FIRE*. To defend the officer who drew but didn't fire yet stands accused of over-reacting, or to defend the officer who did have to fire and is being told he shouldn't have, such data can be compellingly important.

Send it along, if you like, and I'll try to set up an ongoing computer study like the one my friend Evan Marshall does on gunfight stopping power per cartridge. Try to include crime involved, whether cover was available and whether you took it. Did you have to reactively draw or was your gun already out? How many perpetrators did you face? What kind of weapons did they turn out to have? What was the typical distance of the encounters? For the real-life cop in this column the average was well under seven yards not counting one 50-yard situation. What type of weapon were you armed with? Were you on duty, off duty, or civilian status at time of occurrence? If on duty, uniform or plainclothes? How many brother officers were present with you? (The officer in this column was *mano a mano* 50% of the time (nine incidents), against two suspects eight times (44%), and only once against three. He had two or more backups present on two

occasions, one partner half a dozen times, a K-9 twice, and the rest of the time did it by himself.)

If you send in the info now, give us about a year to compile and publish it. The results of that correlated data could help a lot of cops in the future.

Mas Ayoob works fulltime teaching Advanced Officer Survival, Lethal Threat Management for Police, and Judicious Use of Deadly Force throughout the US and other free countries through Lethal Force Institute, PO Box 122, Concord, NH 03301. He works part time in a fully sworn capacity as a lieutenant with a small municipal police department in New England.

MILLER'S MERCCOMP

Continued from page 42

finding new applications for existing concepts. Kent knew tubes of mercury in rifle stocks could tame heavy-recoiling magnum loads. He also knew that bull barrels and ported expansion chambers could reduce handgun muzzle flip. So why not combine those two proven technologies with the added bonus of putting the mercury where it would do the most good?

Smith & Wesson's Model 629 stainless steel .44 Magnum is the foundation for the MercComp. After removing the factory barrel, Kent checks the remaining parts to his own tight set of tolerances and replaces non-conforming items. To make the MercComp as compact as possible, the grip frame is reduced to round butt K-frame dimensions. Work on the action includes timing, honing, polishing, and installing Wolff springs. The trigger is smoothed and reshaped for improved double action firing and an adjustable trigger stop is added. The front of the trigger guard gets sharp 30 line-per-inch checkering. The chamber mouths are chamfered for easy speed loading; and, to prevent recoil bite, the sharp edges on the cylinder latch are rounded.

What makes the MercComp unique is its barrel, which houses the mercury suppressor and the ported expansion chamber compensator. For this critical component, Kent chose a Shilen stainless steel 1 1/4" diameter unturned barrel blank trimmed to 4" for the Combat/Carry Gun. At the muzzle end, he cuts a chamber with an oblong port on either side of the front sight location. The chamber reduces the barrel's rifled length to three-inches.

A stainless steel rod serves as the barrel's underlug and as the suppressor's mercury chamber. The rod is bored out and TIG welded to the barrel. The muzzle end of the mercury chamber is plugged and also welded. (Welding is the only operation not done by Kent.) Mercury is injected into the chamber through a small hole at the forward end of the ejector rod cut. This hole is sealed with a set screw and heavy duty Loctite to prevent leaking even under the heaviest recoil.

Kent admits his designs for both the com-

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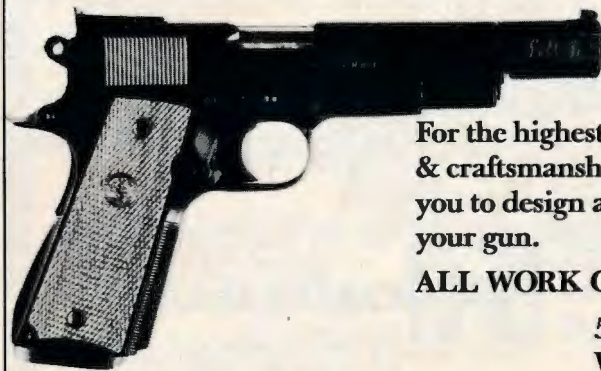
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compensator and the suppressor are more empirical than theoretical. He experimented most with the exit hole size in the compensator and the amount of mercury in the suppressor. The best results came with the exit hole .015" over bore diameter and the mercury chamber two-thirds full (about an ounce of mercury).

Since the set screw that seals the mercury chamber eliminates the normal Smith & Wesson forward cylinder lock on the ejector rod, Kent installs two ball bearing locks on the cylinder crane, one in front and one on top, making for a very rigid cylinder lockup.

A Power Custom ramp front sight is installed on the new barrel and both it and the standard Smith & Wesson adjustable rear sight are modified to a fast and efficient three-dot system. To disrupt any reflections or mirage in the sight plane, the top of the barrel is serrated 50 lines-per-inch.

Using a subtle blend of four distinct finishing techniques, the MercComp demonstrates that good looks do not have to be sacrificed for utility. Sandblasting, beadblasting, brush polishing, and mirror polishing combine to give the gun an attractive array of textures and highlights. The standard Smith & Wesson combat grips add to the gun's overall image but may be replaced by any optional K-frame grips to suit an individual shooter.

Proof of the MercComp's technological effectiveness and Kent's skill came on the range. The suppressor/compensator combination reduces .44 Magnum felt recoil and muzzle flip one quantum level to .357 Magnum status. Even with full power Remington 240 grain loads, quick second shots are completely controllable. Winchester .44 Special 200 grain Silvertips feel like .38 Special target wadcutters — virtually no recoil.

And although far from a target gun in concept, the MercComp turned in several sub-one-inch single action groups with each of the test loads from a braced sitting position at 25 yards. Fast double action groups ran from two to three inches at seven yards.

Performance like this would not be possible without Kent's crisp trigger and smooth action. The single action trigger broke at a light three pounds in complete safety (the hammer would not fall even from the sharpest open-handed blow); while the double action cycled with totally reliable primer ignition at a little over eight pounds.

No one every said custom handguns were inexpensive, but with a MercComp you get the results you pay for. The Combat/Carry Gun goes for \$1200 complete or \$850 for MercComp modifications on a customer's gun. Kent also builds a MercComp Hunter with a six inch barrel, Kimber quick-detach scope rings, and return-to-zero scope mounting points milled directly into the barrel. The Hunter costs \$1300 complete or \$950 for the modifications.

Turnaround time for a full custom gun is four to five months, but shorter for less extensive work. For both revolvers and autos, Kent offers a full range of custom services at prices he says are "probably a little cheaper than most of the big guys."

Local law enforcement has been quick to recognize Kent's skill. He does work for at least five municipal departments plus the private security agency at the nuclear power plant he helped to build. This police and security business contributes to the fact that about 70% of Kent's work is on revolvers.

Of particular interest to police officers are Kent's two newest custom services, the Duty Package and Deluxe Duty Package. These differ by the amount of work done, but the main feature of each is a ported expansion chamber recoil compensator milled directly into the factory barrel. The compensator has a removable end cap (for easy cleaning) set inside of and flush with the muzzle. The Duty Packages give an officer the advantage of carrying a compensated weapon with an almost unaltered appearance.

There has yet to be a dissatisfied customer, probably because Kent guarantees his work unconditionally (except for loss and abuse) and also because he makes sure he and his customers communicate. "If you have any questions pertaining to the services offered," says the last line of Kent's catalog, "please call; or if you just want to talk guns, call anyway!"

You can get a catalog for one dollar by writing Miller's Gun Service, Dept. AH, 210 East Julia, Clinton, IL 61727; or you can talk guns by calling (217) 935-9362, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm central time.



BIG BORE AUTOS

Continued from page 63

lead could foul the gas system. I had some cast lead bullet handloads I really wanted to try in the Desert Eagle, but I resisted the temptation and suggest that you do likewise since I really don't know what detrimental effect firing cast (or swaged) lead bullets in the Desert Eagle's gas system would have. Given the importer's cautions, I believe it would be wise to heed them, though as with all gas systems when used with the proper powders, the Desert Eagle's gas system is somewhat self-cleaning since the gases traveling through the system do have a scouring effect.

Because of their clean burning properties, H-110 and WW-296 performed well in the handloads I used. I fired half a box of Winchester .44 Magnum 240 grain HSP ammunition through the Desert Eagle for chronographing purposes. Interestingly enough, the gas system, which together with the unbelievable weight of the Desert Eagle make the .44 Magnum cartridge feel like something on the order of a hot .45 ACP load, also causes the loss of some velocity, perhaps significantly so. The factory Winchester produced 120 fps velocity less than the same load produced when fired in a six inch barrel S&W Model 629.

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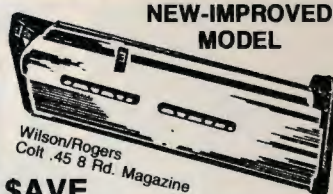
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poses was the LAR Grizzly, which, like the Coonan, shares more than a passing resemblance to the 1911 Colt Government Model. In fact, well over one half of the Grizzly's parts will interchange with the Colt Government Model, and those which will not interchange are those parts which have to be strengthened or enlarged to accept the .45 Winchester Magnum cartridge and its attendant recoil.

The Grizzly is big, though not on the same gargantuan scale of the Desert Eagle. With its checkered rubber Pachmayr-type grips the Grizzly is much more comfortable to shoot than the Coonan. Since its grip profile is a little less than the Desert Eagle, the Grizzly is slightly more comfortable to hold. Make no mistake, though, the Grizzly, as well as the Coonan and Desert Eagle, demands two hands to control it.

The standard barrel length of the Grizzly is six and one half inches, though other lengths are available. Mr. Elden (Robbie) Robison, president of LAR Manufacturing, did not have a six and one half inch barrel Grizzly to loan me when I wanted to evaluate his big-bore autoloader, but he very kindly let me borrow his personal Grizzly with a long slide and a ten inch barrel.

I've long thought that the .45 Winchester Magnum has deserved more interest as a sporting cartridge than fate has currently decreed. The concept of lengthening the proven .45 ACP round for use in autoloaders (within the constraints of keeping the cartridge short enough so that the resulting magazine and frame permit ordinary humans to grasp the pistol comfortably) is a sound one due to the variety of excellent .45 caliber bullets available.

Currently the only factory loaded cartridge for the .45 Winchester Magnum is provided by Winchester, a 230 grain full metal jacket loading. This bullet could have some handgun hunting applications when deep penetration, say through the heavy gristle plate on the shoulder of a "Russian" wild boar, is needed. Any slug which starts out at .45 diameter punches a large hole in living tissue even if the bullet does not expand. However, the handgun hunter will almost certainly wish to handload the .45 Winchester Magnum in order to achieve its full hunting potential.

The factory .45 Winchester Magnum ammunition I had on hand was going on 10 years old since I had bought a case of it when this caliber was first introduced. But as one would expect of an ammunition company like Winchester, every round went through the ten inch Grizzly without a bobble and with remarkably consistent velocities, 1,427 fps at the muzzle with a standard deviation of 12 for ten rounds.

The factory literature advertises 1,400 fps for factory ammo from the six and one half inch barrel. While I don't know if that shorter barrel will actually turn in that velocity, the ten inch barrel slightly exceeds it, so I have no quarrel with the manufacturer's claim.

Accuracy was more than acceptable: two and one half inch groups at 25 yards with

factory ammunition, of which I fired five in order to get 50 once-fired cases for reloading. Since I was using Mr. Robison's personal pistol I don't know if the trigger had been specially tuned or not, but it was just fine for me at three and one half pounds with no drag or creep. Extraction and ejection was positive, with the Grizzly slinging its fired cases a good 12-14 feet almost at right angles from the ejection port. That made finding the empties a little tricky, especially when shooting just after the first snowfall of the year, but I certainly didn't have to contend with any "stove pipe" cases being crunched between the barrel shroud and the slide.

There were several failures to adequately chamber loaded cartridges, but my reloading technique was at fault. While handloading for the Grizzly my normal practice was to load ten rounds of a given powder and bullet combination in order to test for functioning and initial accuracy. I didn't get one batch adequately resized. These were the only feeding, chambering or extraction problems I experienced in over 450 rounds fired.

I had done some load development for the .45 Winchester Magnum when the Wildey big-bore autoloader first appeared, and had found that Blue Dot seemed to be the best powder for this cartridge, with Unique the second best. The slower burning powders such as WW-296, H-110 and 2400 can be used, but these powders really require a heavy crimp to hold the bullet in the case until the pressure curve reaches its optimum value.

Since the Grizzly is not a gas operated system I could use cast lead bullets. One particularly good load was the JDJ 340 grain cast bullet propelled by 14 grains of Blue Dot. This load produced velocities of 1,250 fps which was a little more than I expected. Functioning was flawless and accuracy hovered just outside the two and one half inch center-to-center range at 25 yards. For a good jacketed bullet load I found that the Speer 260 grain JHP with 16 grains of Blue Dot grouped just slightly better than the JDJ 340 grain bullet and turned up 1,310 fps at the muzzle. I believe either of these loads, assuming that the shooter works up the load carefully and stops immediately if indications of excessive pressures appear, would be suitable for hunting.

The accuracy of the Grizzly was aided by the Millett sights and the fine trigger, and I certainly give the manufacturer an "A+" for furnishing an ambidextrous safety as a standard feature. The magazine holds seven rounds, the same as a standard 1911 Colt Government Model.

The Grizzly is a well made big-bore autoloader which utilizes tried and true technology and materials to capitalize on the much greater power available from the .45 Winchester Magnum cartridge. For those who wish to scope the Grizzly, the manufacturer offers a mount which clamps to the slide.

The big-bore autoloaders evaluated above are reliable in operation, and if fed the

proper ammunition they are capable of cleanly taking any game animal within the power limits of the pistol cartridges for which they are chambered. They are less temperamental than the Auto Mag, but with the one exception of "Russian" wild boar I cannot recommend that any of the three pistols evaluated be used on dangerous game since to do so would not be fair to either hunter or the game.

With this current crop of big-bore autoloaders I think we have just about reached the limits of cartridges which can be loaded into a magazine and inserted into the frame of an autoloader and still be small enough for the shooter with average sized hands to grasp. I really can't see autoloader pistol cartridges getting any longer until some inventor figures out a way to load the cartridges in a magazine forward of the trigger guard as was done on the Broomhandle Mauser.

Bullet diameters can get a little bigger of course, with a corresponding reduction in the number of loaded rounds which can be packed into a magazine, but with the .44 Magnum and the .45 Winchester Magnum we are probably seeing the optimum length for autoloading pistols. However, there will be new calibers on the market, and sooner than we think.

Big-bore autoloaders do present some problems for the handgun hunter. Perhaps the biggest problem is the fact that due to product liability considerations, the manufacturers of the autoloaders evaluated do not recommend chambering a round until you

are ready to shoot. You can draw up your own definition of how an autoloader can safely be carried, and you can certainly choose to carry these pistols with a round in the chamber and the safety engaged while you are stalking.

Perhaps you might even fit a leather or fabric strap so that the hammer is blocked from contacting the firing pin should the hammer be inadvertently released. However, the people who manufacture or import these big-bore autoloaders strongly warn against carrying a round in the chamber until you are ready to shoot. If you wish to carry any of these pistols with a round in the chamber while you are stalking you are on your own.

To be absolutely safe, no round should be chambered until you have taken your stand or gotten into shooting position. This makes the autoloader somewhat more awkward and slower to get into action than a revolver or a single-shot pistol. You'll also find that the slides on these big-bore autoloaders are hard to cycle by hand due to the weight of the slides and the heavy springs involved. The Desert Eagle is somewhat harder to cycle than the Coonan or the Grizzly since the lower part of the rotary bolt has to cam down the rim of the uppermost cartridge held in the magazine.

Of course, cycling the slide to chamber a round isn't something which can be done in complete silence, either. This evolution will generate some degree of noise, and that brings the risk of perhaps spooking nearby game.

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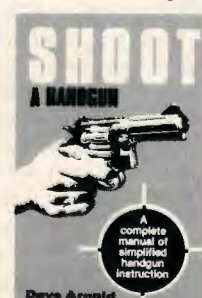
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While the five inch Coonan and the six and one-half inch Grizzly can be carried fairly comfortably in a belt holster, the longer barreled pistols require a shoulder holster. The Grizzly loaned me by Mr. Robison had sling swivel studs brazed to the mainspring housing and the underside of the slide. With optical sights atop the pistol, a sling becomes a viable alternative to a holster, though when I tried carrying the Grizzly with its sling I found it to be a very awkward exercise. For me at least, the pistol seemed to be much less comfortable when slung over one shoulder. You have to keep one hand on the sling constantly to ensure the pistol does not slip down under your armpit or off your shoulder entirely. You can also sling the pistol so that it rides low across your chest. That makes the pistol easy to reach and bring up into shooting position, and the sling's tension across your back helps to steady you for the shot. However, this takes some getting used to, and you'll probably be acutely aware of the pistol and will want to avoid sudden movements which could cause the pistol to swing against a tree or some other obstruction. And these pistols are heavy!

Like most things in life these big-bore autoloaders are compromises. They are fascinating pistols which can be used for handgun hunting under the unique parameters their designs dictate. They are specialized pistols and the handgun hunter will have to adapt to them; it won't be the other way 'round.



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Continued from page 56

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B-SQUARE MOUNT

Continued from page 55

I mounted a Burris 1.5x4 scope on a Model 29 and took off to the range. The testing method was simple enough: shoot it a bunch with the hottest loads I had and see if it fell off. Briefly, it didn't.

Actually I was a little more thorough than that, for I checked to see if anything had loosened at 25 round intervals for the first 100 rounds and then when I finished the next 100. A total of 200 rounds of factory .44 Magnum ammunition was fired by several sore handed friends and myself in the space of a couple of hours and the

mount changed not a bit.

I began by shooting some sandbag groups at 25 yards and, finding them reassuringly small, I moved to some informal plinking at ranges out to 100 yards. The targets were rocks and other suitable objects and I had no problem in powdering them to the point that the lawnmower will be grateful.

When I got back from the shooting session I took everything apart and carefully examined the parts for signs of wear. I paid careful attention to both mounting screws, and they were unchanged. If there had been any undue stress on that little 3-56 screw I would have seen it in the guise of shiny threads or bending, but there was none. Nor was there any sign that the rear lug assembly had suffered.

But, even though my test revealed no problems, it was limited in the number of rounds fired and I think anyone should check all scope mount screws periodically especially when they're used on heavy recoiling guns.

We've all heard the sad tales of do-it-yourself products that are beyond the ability of any save the gifted. Well, this isn't one of them. It's simple. It works. And, it won't mess up the gun. Not too shabby.

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BUFF BUSTER

Continued from page 78

"Go right ahead," was the reply.

We moved back to the 50 yard line and I proceeded to fire six shots double-action from the prone position at the "X" ring of an NRA action target. The double-action pull was incredibly smooth and, much to my surprise, the length of pull was much shorter than in any other Smith & Wesson revolver I had ever shot. Later I would find out that the shortened D.A. pull was a trademark of this talented gunsmith.

A quick walk downrange revealed a six shot group of 1 1/8 inches. I was impressed!

Who built this revolver? John French, of Third Stone Gunworks, was the answer. This was the kind of workmanship and knowhow I was looking for to make my ideas into a working gun.

I telephoned John on the following Monday and set up an appointment to meet later that week. John's shop is a fully equipped machine shop and is almost capable of building a gun from scratch. We looked at some completed guns John had built. These included custom PPC revolvers, custom stocked XP-100's and some of the finest hunting rifles I have ever seen.

John's original interest was in benchrest rifle shooting, which gave him a thorough knowledge of how to build super-accurate guns. We talked about my Buff Buster project and John agreed to help turn my ideas into a working revolver. John ordered the



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parts we needed and the following week work began.

John uses an H & S stainless steel cut rifled barrel with a one-in-thirteen-inch twist. He chose a 1:13 twist to better stabilize the heavy bullet which the gun was to be built around. John starts with a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " barrel blank and cuts it to length. Then the diameter is reduced to come close to my desired finished weight of around 52 ounces.

Next, the barrel is threaded between centers and the forcing cone is cut. Then work starts on the compensator. John determines port length by the length of the bullet to be used. The heavier the bullet, the longer the port. Once port length is established, the width and depth are cut to maximize size staying within safe wall thickness limits.

Then the barrel is screwed into the frame and the barrel cylinder gap is set at .003". Next the cylinder is checked for proper alignment and fit to make sure there is no binding during rotation. This makes for a smoother trigger pull. All parts are checked to make sure they are within factory specification.

Now John starts work on the action—all internal parts are highly polished to achieve a smooth consistent trigger pull. Double-action pull is set at eight pounds, single action is set at two pounds. An internal trigger stop is installed and adjusted to limit overtravel, then the hammer is mated

to the other working parts.

John recontours the hammer spur to improve appearance and help keep the revolver from snagging on clothing during the draw. Three holes are drilled in the hammer to lighten it and thereby shorten lock time which contributes to accurate shooting.

Next John turns his attention to the scope mount. A custom machined aluminum base is installed which uses Weaver stainless steel rings. By using a base made of aluminum instead of steel, weight is saved and the lighter base is less prone to tear itself off during heavy recoil. With this mounting system the scope can be taken on and off without affecting zero.

Now John custom machines a front sight and installs a Millet rear sight. Three weeks had gone by since my first meeting with John when he called me to tell me the revolver was ready for testing.

I put 100 rounds of my heavy .44 Mag hunting loads in my shooting bag and met John at his shop for a trip to the range. We drove to the San Gabriel Gun Club to try out our new creation. After arranging a solid sandbag bench rest targets were set up at 25, 50, and 100 yards.

Step One was to zero the pistol with the iron sights. The scope was quickly removed by simply loosening two screws on the rings and I settled the big .44 over the sandbags and squeezed off the first shot. I was pleasantly surprised as the



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muzzle rose only about three-inches above my line of sight and this was with my full power hunting loads. When building a custom gun, especially one with a muzzle brake, the height of the front sight is sort of an educated guess. John's guess was very close as the first shot fired with the rear sight screwed all the way down was about one-inch low at 25 yards and the windage was perfect.

I adjusted the sight up a few clicks then settled the revolver over the sandbags and fired three shots at the 50 yard target. Again I noticed how effective the compensator was at controlling muzzle rise. I looked through the spotting scope and saw my three shots in a group of about 1½-inches with the point of impact about one-inch high. This is where I like my hunting revolvers zeroed. I can hold to point of aim out to just over 100 yards with this setting.

Next we installed the Leupold 2x scope. I fired a single shot at the 25 yard target which printed about three-inches high and two-inches to the right. A few turns were made on the windage and elevation screws, and another shot was fired. I set the scope point of impact to be about two-inches high at 50 yards. A quick removal and reinstallation of the scope showed no change of zero when I fired another group.

Now it was time to check the accuracy at 100 yards. This, for me, is the best indicator of a revolver's true hunting potential.

Six shot groups at 100 yards measured 3½-inches. I consider this to be fine accuracy for a lead bullet driven at such high velocity.

One last test remained: How fast could I deliver aimed fire from my new revolver?

We set up an 8-inch diameter steel plate at about 30 feet. I handed John my PACT Electronic Shot Timer and removed the scope. I loaded six rounds and got a firm hold on my Hogue grips. I tried as quickly as I could to make hits on the steel plate. The elapsed time from the first shot to the sixth shot was 1.37 seconds. Over nine-thousand pounds of muzzle energy in under a second and a half! All from a 6½-inch barrel, 54 ounce revolver. We had accomplished our goal. John had done a great job.

For more information about Buff Buster and the other custom services of John French, write to him at Third Stone Gunworks, Dept. AH, 2400 E. Huntington Dr., Duarte, CA, 91010.

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HUNTING LAWS

Continued from page 56

in case you swing a leg over a fallen log and step squarely onto a copperhead moccasin sunning itself on the other side? Would you be in violation of Alabama hunting laws and regulations?

Let's look at a northeastern state like Maine. Title 12 of the Maine Statutes, section 7406, subsection 17B (the general laws relating to hunting) will inform you that a person who "uses for hunting or possesses any autoloading firearms having a magazine capacity of more than five cartridges" is guilty of possessing a "prohibited implement."

This subsection further states that "all autoloading firearms having a magazine capacity in excess of five cartridges shall have the magazine permanently altered to contain not more than five cartridges before it may be used in this State."

But wait. Subsection 20B(2) two pages further along in the statute says that the five round magazine restriction does not apply to "firearms using the .22 caliber rimfire cartridge or to any autoloading pistol having a barrel less than eight inches in length." You breathe a sigh of relief since this means that you don't have to permanently block the magazine of your big bore autoloader. Darn. Your Dan Coonan has a six inch barrel, but your LAR Grizzly has a ten inch barrel. Does that mean . . . ?

What about pistols with interchangeable barrels of varying lengths? Do you have to have two types of magazines if one barrel exceeds eight inches in length?

What about concealed firearms? Must you have a permit for concealed carry? "Heck," you say, "I'm wearing this big piece of iron openly in a shoulder holster. I don't need to worry about any law regulating concealment." Maybe. Maybe not.

Suppose it begins to rain and you shrug into the poncho you thoughtfully stowed in your day pack? Your pistol is now hidden beneath the poncho. Does that make your holstered pistol a concealed handgun? Most states would argue that your handgun is now concealed, and a permit for concealed carry is required even though you are miles into the puckerbrush. Maybe the warden you meet would consider that you're doing the natural thing to keep a valuable handgun dry, and pass on without thinking more about it. Or the warden might ask you to rig your holster on the outside of your poncho. Or the warden might cite you for a violation of state law, perhaps even arrest you!

Are there any states which specifically prohibit autoloaders for hunting? Knowledgeable Pennsylvania handgun hunters will quickly tell you that autoloading rifles and pistols are not legal for big game hunting. Title 34 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes section 2308(a)(2) prohibits semi-automatic rifles and pistols as "unlawful

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devices." Thus, in Pennsylvania you may legally use a revolver to hunt big game, but you may not use an autoloader.

Just one more example. In West Virginia a hunter who wants to use a handgun may use either a revolver or a pistol, but only after he or she has obtained a Class 1A license to hunt with a handgun. This license, as provided by Chapter 20, Article 2, Section 406 of the Code of West Virginia, must be obtained in addition to a regular long arms hunting license, and is available only to residents of the state. A non-resident hunter cannot hunt with any type of handgun in West Virginia.

American Handgunner does not have the space to publish all of the laws and regulations relating to handgun hunting in our American states. In any event, these laws and regulations are subject to change by the various state legislatures and game commissions. I think by now you have gotten the idea that these laws and regulations are bewilderingly complex. They are, and we haven't even touched on particular laws and regulations pertaining to transporting handguns for hunting.

So what can you do to ensure that you don't innocently violate a state's laws and regulations pertaining to handgun hunting? I suggest one inflexible rule: **IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE LAWS OF A STATE IN WHICH YOU WISH TO HUNT WITH A HANDGUN—ASK STATE OFFICIALS BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO HUNT.**

You may write or telephone the game commissions or equivalent agencies in any state where you intend to hunt with a handgun. Ask to be referred to the law enforcement division of the commission; explain your situation and ask for an explanation of the state's laws and regulations.

In my conversations with law enforcement officers such as Mr. Jerry Wendt, Assistant Director of Law Enforcement for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Major Ray Shamblin of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, I've found these two gentlemen, and all other law enforcement people, to be unfailingly polite to the public and anxious to assist in defining the requirements of their states' hunting laws and regulations.

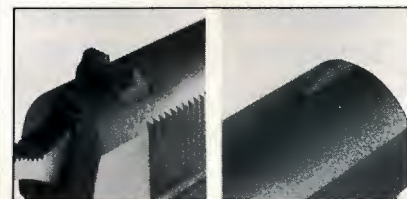
These people *do not want* you to violate their laws any more than you want to violate them.

If you ask for the appropriate citations to the state laws and regulations and abide by the information you receive you should have no problems with the guidance you receive from these officials. By the way, if you live in a state which has laws or regulations which you as a handgun hunter believe are unfair or overly restrictive, you have a constitutionally guaranteed right to work with others to change those laws and regulations within the framework of our democratic government. As American citizens we all enjoy the absolute right to petition our elected officials to revise the laws and regulations which govern us—at the state as well as the national level. However, the laws and regulations in effect at the time you intend to hunt with your handgun are the laws which you must obey.

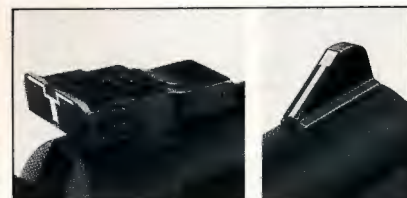


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MANSTOPPERS

Continued from page 34

water, sand, clay, and others. After much comparison of these substances, I've found soft, dry, loose sand to be uniformly representative of expansion potential energy.

As the accompanying photo shows, the .38 caliber bullets did not begin to expand until a charge of 8 grains of Blue Dot was reached. At 10 grains, up to 14 grains, expansion was consistent and 100% reliable, with bullets turning themselves inside-out to a diameter of over .600".

The little Charter snubby digested all the loads up to and including 14 grains of Blue Dot. However, some leading of the barrel and noticeable recoil were beginning at the 12.25 grain load.

As a sort of reference point, I included some Federal Nyclad 125 grain lead hollow-points. I consider them one of the best non-+P .38 loads available as factory ammo. They consistently expand to about .500" out of 2" barrels, as they did here.

For my gun, 11 grains of Blue Dot is the best compromise on accuracy, power, and recoil. Using a two-hand hold without any type of support, I managed 1½" groups at 30 feet. A benchrest would probably produce tighter groups, but keep in mind that snubbies are carry-guns, not target pistols.

The 11 grain load provides bullet expansion of almost .650" with safe pressures, optimal snubby accuracy, and, as mentioned earlier, low night-muzzle-flash.

So there it is: a .38 snubby load that really will reliably expand. It provides what I feel is optimal shock value from a short .38.

Best of all, this is a snubby defense load that you can afford to practice with. These days, Slugs Nyclad ammo and Glaser Safety Slugs are retailing anywhere from 30¢ to \$3.00 per round! That can amount to pretty expensive target practice. Yet, with a can of Blue Dot and some cast 105 grain semi-wadcutters, you can have practice ammo, with self-defense power, at almost the cost of .22 LR ammo.

This powerful bargain can help you develop the confidence that comes from knowing what your gun is capable of—and that you are capable of handling it. That confidence, built of affordable practice, will be very handy if you ever find yourself in that moment of gravest extreme when you need help from your "pocket-partner."



OMEGA MAN

Continued from page 47

Colt firing pin in a vise and left about an inch or so protruding which he then started to bend back and forth with a pliers. After three bends, the Colt pin broke. Repeating the test with a Peters firing pin, it took ten bends to break it!

As good a quality as the slides are, it still takes a good barrel and locking system to

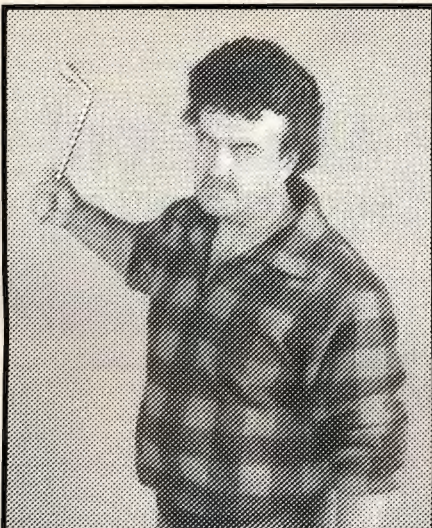
make a good pistol. Peters' barrels and unique locking system leave nothing to be desired here. The barrel blanks that Peters uses are military specification machine gun barrel material. The blanks start out as 39 inch pieces and Peters usually gets four and sometimes five barrels out of these blanks. About 90% of the original blank is milled away during the barrel making process. The barrels are hammer forged and have polygon rifling. This provides for higher velocities and better accuracy. In addition, since there are no lands and grooves to wear out, the barrel lasts a long time. (Peters told me about a 9mm test barrel that had 40,000 rounds put through it at a proof house. The test was finally stopped because the barrel showed no apparent wear.) The hammer forging process relieves stress in the length of the barrel instead of inside the barrel like button rifling does.

To ensure a good lockup, each barrel goes through a grinding process on a center grinding machine. This provides for a nice finish but, more importantly, provides each barrel the same exacting specifications at the locking cam. The machine grinds approximately 15mm from the outside diameter of the barrel in order to tightly fit the barrel to the slide. Because the tolerances at the locking lug are held to 2/100 of a millimeter, there is no need to individually fit the barrels to the slides. It would be impossible to hold to these close tolerances without this grinding operation. The end result is that each barrel locks up in the same place—no matter what caliber you are using, and accuracy is thereby assured.

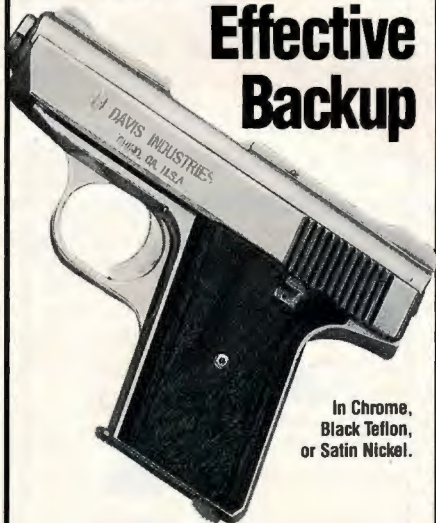
Peters claims accuracy results of one inch groups at 25 meters with the multi-caliber system. Because of special polygon profiles that he has developed for these barrels, the accuracy is maintained with either lead or jacketed bullets.

To ensure good reliability, Peters warns reloaders to shoot at least 500 rounds through the pistol before using the pistol in serious competition. If a reloader has an unusual round to be used, Peters requires the shooter to send 50 rounds to the factory so that the pistol can be tailored to the bullet. Peters personally tests these reloads for proper pressures before using them in the pistol. To ensure durability in his barrels, Peters has conducted some tests using double charged 10mm loads that had a pressure of 40,000 psi and his barrels still survived. The rate of return for pistols back to the factory because of some part failure is less than 1%.

The pistol frames that Peters uses are either stainless steel or 4140 steel frames. The stainless frames are investment castings that are cast in the USA and machined in his shop. The steel frames are forged steel frames made by Springfield Armory and sent to Germany either as a forged piece or a finished frame. The forged pieces are heat treated (38 Rockwells) and machined by Peters to exacting specifications. The Springfield completed frame is not heat treated and used as-is for the normal pistols he builds. Consequently, Peters can offer a variety of combinations with either slides or frames and



When You Need Effective Backup

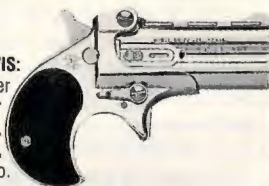


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produce a pistol to remain within the budgets of his customers. At the present time, 50% of his business (mostly slides and barrels) goes to the USA, while 40% goes to Europe and Germany and 10% to the rest of the world.

German customers can order a custom pistol and usually receive the completed pistol within four weeks. Since the basic slides and frames are all ready made, it's just a matter of fitting what the customer wants and adding their extras. In the USA, you can buy the completed Omega pistol from Springfield Armory or send them your frame and have them fit a slide. Either choice will cost you less time and money than a combat pistol from a custom gunsmith.

Spending a day at the Peters Stahl Co. was most enjoyable and very informative. After seeing the high quality that was evident in the manufacturing shop plus the knowledge and expertise that was stressed in the final assembly shop, I couldn't resist ordering my own Omega pistol.

For the newer combat shooters, or even some of you older shooters who want to put some new life into that Gov't 1911 .45 you own, I recommend that you take a serious look at the Omega multi-caliber system. The excellent German quality combined with realistic American prices make the Omega system a "must" pistol to own and shoot.



THE OMEGA

Continued from page 47

ported barrels and, after shooting them, I can't imagine not wanting the recoil stabilizing effect the ports provide.

The 10mm is, of course, the hardest kicking and the recoil comparison between the Omega and Colt's Delta Elite is dramatic. The Omega is heavier too and that helps, as do the standard Pachmayr grips, but when I first shot it I couldn't believe how mild, comparatively, the recoil was. Until the Omega came along I have to admit that I wasn't all that keen about shooting hot 10mm loads but that's all changed now.

It is important to understand that the Omega is close to a custom gun as it comes, and make a few allowances for that. The reason that I bring this up is that I experienced a few malfunctions with the .45 barrel. The reason was obvious, for the dual extractors were not opening up enough over the larger .45 rim and the gun would not go completely into battery. A conversation with Springfield's pistolsmith, Tim Dillon, confirmed what I already knew. In fitting the extractors Dillon concentrated on getting reliable performance with the 10mm, knowing that they would be too tight for the .45, but also aware that a little shooting would fit things more reliably and this was exactly what happened. Function with the 10 was good and after I shot the .45 a couple of hundred rounds, everything smoothed out. Anyone who has ever broken in a new custom gun may have experienced the same thing, for if the smith did it right he made allowances for wearing-in.

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Testing of the Omega concentrated on the 10mm and the majority of the 1,000 rounds through the gun are in that caliber. Accuracy with factory ammo and reloads was not what I would have hoped for and the very best groups were a bit over two inches at 25 yards while the average was closer to three inches. Factory Norma ammunition consistently shot around four-inches. The load that produced the best groups in the Omega delivered one inch in the 10mm comp gun that was featured in the May/June, 1987 *American Handgunner*.

Switching to .45 or .38 Super didn't change things in the accuracy department. One of the true curses of the kind of work I do is that my opinions are often based on results from a single gun and, while mine functioned well, the accuracy was not up to what Springfield Armory claims in their advertising. My results prompted me to ask a couple of my colleagues from some of the other gun magazines for their observations. They report average accuracy results of around two-inches with factory ammo, so my conclusion is that each gun must be treated individually. After all, these are hand fitted barrels so there is always the chance that there will be some variations. When I reported my observations to Springfield Armory, they asked me to return the gun and assured me that anyone who had accuracy problems should do the same.

As I'm writing this there is still a problem with 10mm factory ammo, but that is sure to change. Norma factory ammunition is available with a 200 gr. ball load which delivers 1085 fps from the Omega's six-inch barrel and there's also a 170 gr. hollowpoint load that turns up 1145. The current hollowpoint ammunition is cursed with velocity variations that amount to extreme spreads of as much as 200 fps that were caused by a powder problem that Norma reports is now resolved.

In the early search for screaming velocity, the very first Norma hollowpoints were loaded to 1400 fps but cooler heads now prevail and new production will probably give an honest 1300 fps. And I expect velocity in the Omega to be a bit higher due to the longer barrel. The 200 gr. ball loading did not suffer the same problems and remains unchanged.

The Omega got quite a workout as I began working up loads for the new 10mm bullets now available from Hornady and Sierra and I thought it was a useful comparison to test loads in both the Colt and Springfield guns. The Omega's longer barrel always gave it a velocity edge and it was unfailingly pleasant to shoot even when some of the loads were, by my standards, too hot. The effectiveness of the porting system was really obvious too and it was dramatic to see two columns of flame spurt from the ports with a couple of loads that seemed to burn more of their powder in the air than in the barrel.

While I'm sure the mass appeal of the Omega will be to those who feel the need for the speed of the 10mm, the cartridge has a lot more going for it than just velocity. It is

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inherently accurate, easy to reload and, when loaded down just a bit, a joy to shoot. The lighter bullets produce recoil on a par with the .38 Super and IPSC shooters are sure to recognize the advantage of the lower pressures of the 10mm compared to the Super. The Omega needs only a trigger job to perform quite well in practical shooting and would appear to be a cost saving alternative to a custom comp gun.

The Springfield Armory Omega takes advantage of some new design technology to allow interchangeability of cartridges with significantly different rim diameters and the new locking system is promising, for it will allow a significantly longer delay before unlocking that will help mitigate higher pressures. In short it has a lot of potential.

All new products experience some growing pains and that's how I characterize most of the troubles I experienced. After all, my gun is one of the very first to come from Springfield and suffers some of the pains of youth. I'm not ready to give it a bad rap for this sort of thing because it functions well with a new, and hot, cartridge. My only reservation is about the accuracy, but my experience seems to be the exception and the gun's on the way back for a rework.

SILUETAS

Continued from page 16

offhand shooting of (groan!) 1.77-inch round steel silhouettes at 25 and 50 yards. Want to see how small these are? Set an aspirin tablet at one end of the family room and use it for dry firing! Fortunately, one manufacturer has exactly what .22 shooters need to practice the .22 Masters course. Motsey's makes a .22 practice target that consists of five 1 3/4-inch steel circular silhouettes that disappear when they are hit and then the whole thing can be reset by hitting a 2 1/2-inch reset plate. No fair just shooting at the reset plate! Only the 1 3/4-inch discs count. Try it and see how small the circles look at 50 meters. This is really tough silhouetting and a challenge to both shooter and handgun.

When I started putting representative .22 ammunition on paper through two semi-automatics designed for silhouetting, I really discovered how foolish I had been for not shooting .22's all along. Anyone will tell you that a big bore revolver that will group in the one inch range at 25 yards and two inches at 50 yards is superb. The .22's I tried, both the guns and the ammunition, will cut this in half and then some! And realizing how relatively cheap .22 ammunition is and the fact that no time is spent retrieving, cleaning, or reloading brass, plus no bullets nor powder have to be purchased, I really feel foolish for ignoring .22's for so long.

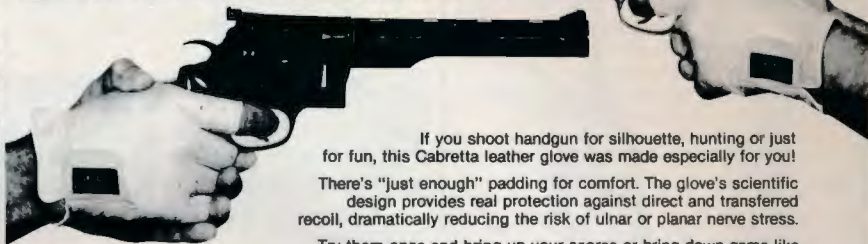
How good are the .22's, both guns and ammunition, that we have available to us? To answer that question, I fired 10 different varieties of .22 ammunition through two superb .22 semi-automatics, the Ruger Mk. II, and the Browning Buckmark Varmint, both sporting ten-inch barrels. The following are

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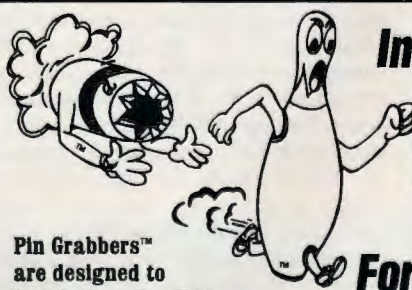
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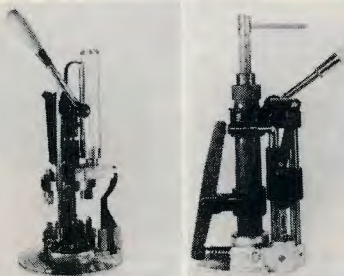
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representative of five-shot groups at 50 yards with no attempt made to "condition" a barrel to a particular load.

Lead bullets and copper coated bullets were not fired in a particular sequence, that is, I did not fire all the lead bullets and then all the copper coated bullets. This fact makes the results all the more astounding. All groups were fired from a padded rest using a Ricman Portable Shooting Bench.

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For those who are searching for the ultimate in .22 accuracy, it looks like Remington is finally going to offer the XP-100 in .22 rimfire. Bill Calfee, of Bill Calfee Rifle Machine (Route 2, Dept. AH, Borden, IN 47106) has been successfully converting Remington XP's to .22 rimfire since 1983. His .22's are expensive for the simple reason that the necessary parts to convert the XP, namely 40X rimfire parts, are not available. Bill has to purchase the whole Remington 40X to get the parts.

I recently had the pleasure of shooting one of Calfee's custom .22 rimfire XP's. Even though it was in the dead of winter and impossible to find a day with nice weather, both I and a shooting friend were able to get one-inch groups at 50 meters, by simply resting the butt on the spare tire carrier of my Bronco. This, of course, is no way to wring the ultimate accuracy out of any handgun. Since the gun Bill sent me was a customer's gun, a customer who graciously allowed me to try it out before he himself took delivery, I did not want to keep it for a long time while waiting for good weather.

Calfee consequently sent me a target containing five 50 yard groups shot with one of his XP .22's using CCI Mini Mags. Those five groups, five shots each, measured .275", .280", .286", .310", and .374". That is an average of .305", or less than one third of an inch! That is real .22 accuracy.

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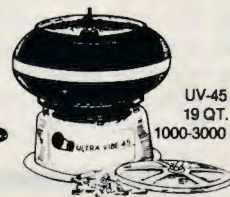


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project and does bring out a rimfire XP, Calfee will switch to tuning and custom barreling the production rimfires. Twenty-two shooters should welcome Remington's entry into the .22 rimfire handgun field—but remember, Bill Calfee did it first.

It may be very rewarding to knock down long range targets with home-brewed ammunition, but it is also very relaxing to knock down small targets with .22's that do not have to be reloaded. On the next trip to a silhouette match, take along the "lowly" .22 and a quantity of ammunition. Expect to be challenged and to have more fun than you have had in a long time.

LEATHAM'S COLUMN

Continued from page 20

hunting, then one has not received the full value of the accomplishment.

If one learns to hit the A-zone of an IPSC target from 10 meters, from the leather, in 1/10ths of a second as simply the ability to protect oneself better, then one has ignored the true lesson of wanting, persevering, striving and, finally, succeeding.

The strengthening of the soul is the issue. The tools you use are of little importance in comparison to the determination required to perform the feat.

So, yes, get yourself the latest in trick equipment, or don't. Either way makes so little difference as to not matter. As I tell my students, no gun in the world is going to make the decision to shoot for you. Only your own discipline will control the final outcome. Play the game and get the full value of the lessons learned.

Combat Master Rob Leatham, two-time IPSC World Champion and four-time US National Champion, is currently conducting classes at the Leatham Shooting Institute for shooters of all skill levels interested in learning how to shoot better in competition or for personal satisfaction. For more information on classes write to Leatham Shooting Institute, P.O. Box 1291, Mesa, AZ, 85201.

Correction

In the July/August issue we muddled up the addresses of two scope manufacturers in the list of handgun scope makers. Write either of these fine firms for their free catalogs of handgun scopes.

Burriss Company
Dept. AH
P.O. Box 1747
Greeley, CO 80632

Bushnell
300 North Lone Hill Ave.
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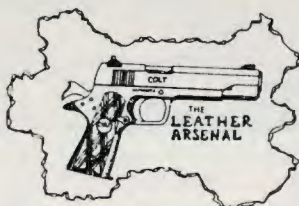
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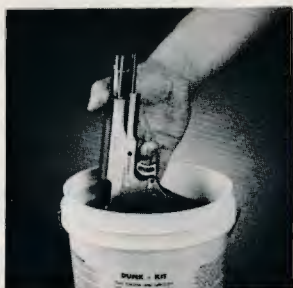
Massad Ayoob on Leather Arsenal products:

"The custom gunleather produced by Elmer McEvoy at Leather Arsenal is second to none! When teaching in the Rocky Mountain area, I found that a high number of both the IPSC winners and the professional pistoleros chose Leather Arsenal gear. The straightforward honesty of leathermaker Elmer McEvoy, and the way he stands behind his work, means a lot to me too!"

--Massad Ayoob

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HANDGUN SAFARI

Continued from page 58

The tourism bureau publishes a nicely illustrated booklet on big game hunting in South Africa that lists all of the members of the South African Professional Hunters Association along with the game available, type of accommodations and location. Write to SATOUR, Dept. AH, 9465 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90212 to request *The Hunting Directory of South Africa*. Read this booklet and write to several prospective safari firms and request their brochures and literature.

I'm going to give away a "trade secret" on finding really good deals in South Africa. As far as I know, this has never been published before and I suspect very few hunters are aware of this avenue of locating super deals. I only discovered it while I was attending grad school in Johannesburg at Rand Afrikaans University in 1983.

There's a tabloid called *Farmers Weekly* with editions in both official languages, English and Afrikaans. This tabloid is almost exclusively ads and classifieds featuring items of interest to farmers, like fertilizer, tractors and farms for sale. Also found frequently are ads from small land owners selling hunting rights on their pieces of the bush. Fantastic deals can be found, like hunting the magnificent greater kudu for 300 Rand, about \$150!

However, there's a catch. It seemed to me that most copies were in the Afrikaans version of the tabloid, so you either need to learn a few words of the Dutch derived tongue or get an interpreter. Secondly, you must be there in South Africa to get the publication, which is predominantly a newsstand item. I advise finding a short duration safari, about a week, through regular channels and then when you're there, check out *Farmers Weekly* for good deals to extend your hunt another week or so.

One reason why South African safaris are so much more affordable than in the rest of Africa is because of the modern, refined infrastructure. Freeways and highways, railroads and airports, bridges and tunnels all facilitate fast and easy access to remote corners of the country. Contrast that to, say, Zambia where there is an 18th century infrastructure—no roads to the hunting lands, you must take a charter plane at \$1,500 each way!

Depending on where you look, a South African safari costs from one-fifth to one-half the price of other countries. There is no question that South Africa is the most affordable corner of the Dark Continent.

Any hunt for dangerous game, the Big Five, is considerably more expensive than a hunt for plains game. It's simply supply and demand. Under the careful program of game management, South Africa allows only so many licenses for the Big Five (lion, leopard, Cape buffalo, elephant and rhino) each year. Many hunters want to

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Not everyone likes to order a full custom combat competition .45ACP all tricked out right from the get-go. Some folks like to customize as they go, order one item from column A, another from column B... and so on.

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shoot a lion or a buffalo, so the price is high.

Plains game is a term that refers to the many animals in the antelope family. Few "plains game" actually live on the plains, so it's a misleading term. Some live in savannah, some in acacia thorn, some in tropical rain forests, some in the bushveld. Some, in fact, do live on the plains.

A safari has two costs, "daily fees" and "trophy fees." A trophy fee is paid for each animal you shoot and the price varies considerably, from \$50 for a warthog to \$15,000 for a rhino. Virtually every antelope on a "mixed bag" hunt for plains game costs less than \$750, most in the \$300 to \$400 ballpark. The daily fee is paid for the services of your professional hunter, trackers, skimmers, gun bearers and other assorted camp staff. This includes all your accommodations, meals, laundry service and the many other little things that make up a hunt, like the Land Rover, the salt for your hides, a ride back and forth from the airport.

I gathered 34 brochures from various South African safari firms at the 1988 Safari Club International convention and averaged their prices. You can save a considerable amount on daily fees by hunting with one of the new breed of young professional hunters up and coming in the hunting world, but trophy fees tend to remain consistent among the outfitters.

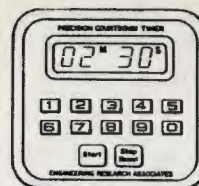
The average daily fee from the 34 surveyed firms is \$335.31 for one-on-one service, one client, one pro hunter. The average for two-on-one, two clients and one pro, is \$275.36 each. From some of the bigger "name brand" operations the price was as high as \$600 per day, and from the younger, upcoming pros the rate can be as low as \$100 per day. Remember, this includes all your lodging, food and provisions.

Some selected trophy fee averages include the kudu at \$613.42; impala at \$140; zebra at \$448.42; wildebeest at \$381.84; leopard at \$2,215 and lion at \$3,210.

Additionally, many firms offer special "package deals" that include a certain number of hunting days and a certain collection of trophies all for one lump sum, often significantly less than the individual prices would total. Like buying a gun or a car, check around and shop for the best buy.

You can expect to collect 10 or 12 trophies on a two week hunt, all plains game. The tremendous cork-screw horns of the graceful greater kudu are highly prized. You will bag impala, the impish little antelope with lyre shaped horns. Zebra are plentiful and make lovely rugs. The plucky warthog, almost beautiful he's so darn ugly, is a great handgun challenge.

The wildebeest is ubiquitous and notoriously tough to bring down, but a stimulating animal to hunt. The Cape hartebeest is a bit goofy in appearance, but sports a uniquely shaped set of horns and makes an impressive trophy mount. Small antelope,



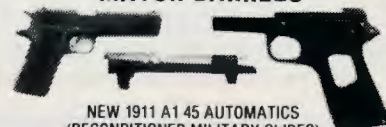
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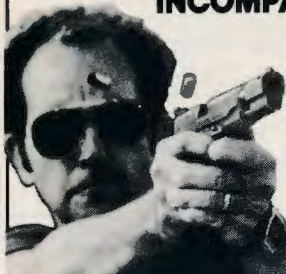
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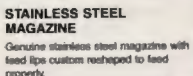
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I have made seven safaris in South Africa including a rather lively one in 1985 with Bianchi Cup champion Mickey Fowler and ace pistolsmith Bill Wilson. In 1987 I took Massad Ayoob on safari with me and we enjoyed a fabulous hunt together. During these various trips I found another little trick of the trade that can help save money on a safari.

Find a young, eager professional hunter. The established oldtimers charge considerably more than a young buck just starting in the business and I've found that the up-and-coming pro's are every bit as good, if not better, than most of the veterans because they are enthusiastic, energized and eager. They've not yet become jaded. The hard-charging new generation of pro hunters, in my experience, offers a first-class safari. You find the same thing with gunsmiths—often a bright, young gunsmith gives equal if not better service than an old master at a fraction of the price. It seems inflation follows reputation.

I've hunted with three such rising stars on separate occasions and each demonstrated exceptional hunting skills, dedication and eagerness. Mickey, Bill and I hunted with Deon Goosen (P.O. Box 73008, Fairland, 2030, Republic of South Africa) in 1985 and Mickey went back to take a huge tom leopard with Deon the following year. Massad and I enjoyed remarkably good hunting with Andre Roux (P.O. Box 386, Pretoria, 0001, Republic of South Africa). And another up and coming professional hunter with whom I've hunted twice before and am returning to hunt with again this year is Rocco Gioia (P.O. Box 693, Hoedspruit, 1380, Republic of South Africa).

I hope it goes without saying that your handgun should be big and powerful. The game of Africa is amazingly tough and tenacious due to constant predator pressure. With lions and leopards and jackals and hyenas and wild hunting dogs, you get tough or you get eaten. Simple as that. I've shot more than one zebra with scars on his rump from an unsuccessful lion attack!

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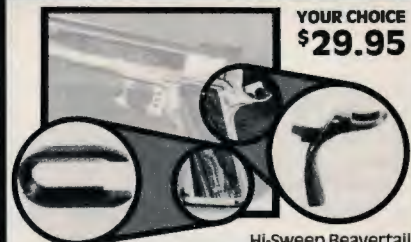
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A day in the life of a handgun hunter on safari begins with the crisp African dawn as the blood-red sun squints over the horizon triggering a chorus of exotic birds chirping outside your window. You lazily wipe the sleep from your eyes as a native girl gently raps on your bedroom door to deliver a steaming mug of tea. You feel exhilarated, you're on safari!

You wriggle into your khaki hunting clothes and check your pistol. Fresh ammo in your belt loops? Scope still secure in its mounts? Knife sharp, binoculars clean? Let's hunt!

It's 6 a.m. and the rising sun paints the bush a brilliant orange-purple as you clamber into the Land Rover to meet your professional hunter, who seems far too bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at this ungodly hour of the morning after those Lion lagers last night around the campfire.

"Top of the morning, old boy," comes the salutation in crisp, proper British-English, "Sleep well? I hope so, we've got MMBA to cover this fine morning."

"Slept like an Egyptian mummy, thanks. MMBA?" you reply as the old Land Rover grinds into first with a defiant clank of the transmission.

"Miles and Miles of Bloody Africa. We'll motor out into the bush, park under a shady baobab tree and then we'll begin your safari. Spotted a tremendous kudu a few miles west the other day and if we're in luck the chap will cooperate and still be in the area. He's a huge bugger, must be at least 55-inches around the spiral of those tremendous horns. Haven't seen one that big in a few seasons. His headgear must be weighing him down, so what say we go relieve him of his burden?" replies your professional hunter as he slows the chugging Land Rover to a crawl as the Shangaan tracker leaps aboard.

"Shall I load? I've got these heavyweight .44 Magnum slugs, 320 grainers, that are just the ticket for that big kudu," you ask.

"Go ahead and load up, you never know what might decide to climb in with us. Three years ago I had a bloody huge lion charge Old Betsy. Tried to leap right in with us, but we weren't picking up hitchhikers that day. Bit of a crowd, don't you know. So yes, go ahead and load but do not shoot! It's just not sporting, old chap, to shoot from a vehicle. We won't shoot within 500 yards of Old Betsy even if a kudu with horns as long as a Zulu spear steps out. So bloody well don't shoot unless we get another uninvited hitchhiker trying to catch a free ride. It's okay to repel borders."

You reach the area after a dusty, cool ride in the open air Land Rover and you slide out to begin a stalk. The tracker, a lithe young Shangaan whom you under-

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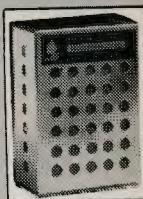
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stand can read the ground like you scan the morning papers, trots along in front followed by the professional hunter with you bringing up the rear. The PH has explained that the tracker goes first in order to get a good look at any fresh spoor on the ground; he follows to probe the bush looking for game; you look for animals too, and pay attention to the hand signals that constitute communication on a stalk. No talking, you have been told rather emphatically.

The ground seems to be covered with assorted footprints—everything from the poodle-size print of a steenbok to the size 18s of a Cape buffalo. How can the tracker sort one from another? How he can tell the age of the spoor: two hours, two days, two weeks? He seems to stroll effortlessly, head bent, eyes darting. He takes the spoor of a pointy sort of a hoof print. The PH turns and gestures above his head, his hands making spirals upward as he stands on tippy-toes. Big kudu tracks, you gather.

Suddenly the tracker freezes like a Britany on point. The professional halts, his right foot still in midair between steps. You stop too. Slowly, carefully the tracker raises a tentative arm and points off to your left. You stare, and see nothing. The professional nods and tucks his left hand behind his back, out of sight, and waves gently to the left. He wants me to move left, you figure, and you follow him crabstepping and hunched over in the instinctive crouch of Man the Predator.

The professional leads you 15 yards to a scrubby thorn bush, and gestures gently ahead. You gingerly raise your Leupold scoped Ruger Redhawk to try to get a look at what's up ahead—surely a kudu?—that you still can't see with your untrained naked eye. The bush is dense and sorta gray in overall color. It so happens a kudu has a gray coat. Mother Nature knew her business, you realize, when She designed camo clothing for the animals.

Miraculously you see what you could not see before without the aid of the 2-power scope's magnification. What a gorgeous, magnificent animal! The kudu is browsing about 40 yards ahead. The early morning sun glistens on his horns, the ivory tips flashing brightly high above the kudu's shoulders. He's the size of a large bull elk, you notice. He's standing broadside, maybe quartering ever-so-slightly away.

You raise your Redhawk carefully and delicately brace your hands on a rather flimsy limb of the thorn bush. Not much of a rest, but any rest is better than no rest. Your breath comes in spurts as your heart races and your adrenal gland dumps another five gallons of excitement into your system. Buck fever strikes again.

You calm yourself and steady the crosshairs on the shoulder. Realizing the noise that cocking the hammer would make, you elect to go for a double-action shot. You line up the Duplex wires where you know the heart to lie, low in the chest. Steady pressure builds on the trigger and

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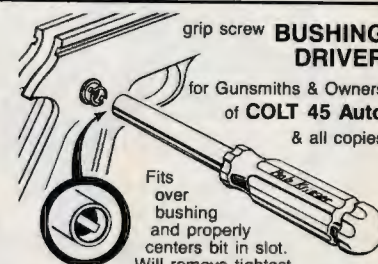
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10:57 a.m.

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

11:03 a.m.

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

11:04 a.m.

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

11:16 a.m.

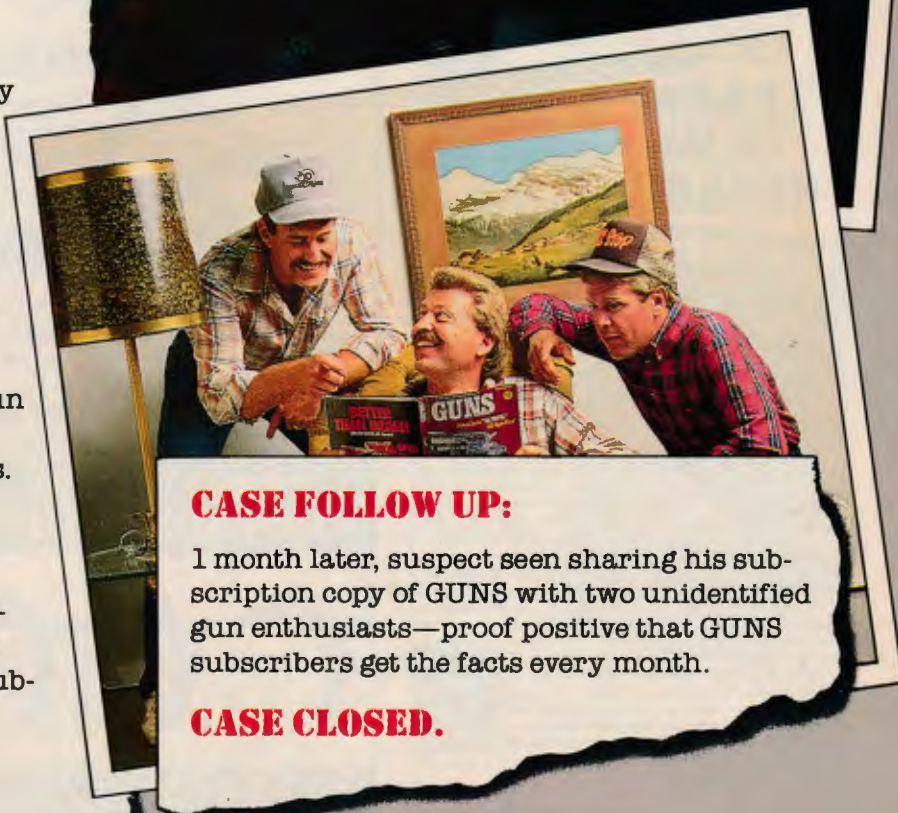
Suspect flees the scene and is quickly arrested for needlessly magazine whipping two innocent fishing enthusiasts.

12:43 p.m.

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

1:05 p.m.

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



CASE FOLLOW UP:

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

CASE CLOSED.

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You go and fetch the Land Rover to load 750 pounds of delicious kudu meat and the trophy that will eventually cause a wee bit of a tiff with your wife as you try to explain why the kudu head would look better over the fireplace than her favorite Renoir print. The air seems crisper and your gun seems lighter, you positively strut instead of stroll. You've just bagged the Gray Ghost of the bush, the majestic kudu.

You lunch and return to MMBA afterwards to hunt warthog. A nice boar falls to another 320 grain hardcast slug and you drink his toast over kudu steaks that evening around the crackling campfire. You climb wearily into bed, your body tired but your mind alive with energy as you fall asleep dreaming of your next day on safari. You've just completed the first chapter of a dream you've cherished since boyhood, an African safari.

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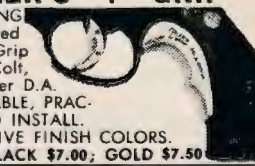
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PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 14

Broomhandle Mausers being imported from China.

Cliff: The bores are all rough and the throats eroded. I have been either reboring and rifling these pistols in 9mm by inserting a sleeve in the chamber end and working right through that. Some shops reline these barrels, but that leaves only .060" wall thickness, so I prefer to rebarrel them. This leaves some exciting options open: New barrels up to 16-inches long can be installed.

AH: Are we talking about a large investment in this work?

Cliff: Up to an 8-inch barrel costs \$175, while the 16-inch variation is \$250. Some makers get \$1500 for a completed job. I only do the barrel work, but many of my clients prefer to do the finish details themselves.

AH: How do you rebarrel a Mauser pistol?

Cliff: I cut off the barrel a bit in front of the chamber area, counterbore from the front and stop just short of the rear of the chamber, leaving the extractor groove and original feed ramp. The new barrel abuts just like a Mauser rifle barrel, at two points, leaving just a faint line at the joint, which usually disappears entirely after rebluing. You can often bore out the original front sight, into a barrel band, and apply it to the

new barrel by shrinking it into place.

AH: There's an interesting point: Do you believe that silver soldering or welding on a barrel changes its accuracy potential?

Cliff: Application of heat completely ruins a barrel for accurate shooting. It would be different if a manufacturer did the work, because he could use different alloys, special solders and brazing could become a part of the heat treating process. That controlled work is different than using a torch. I tested a standard Douglas barrel, at 28 on the Rockwell C scale, then welded a lug on and tested it again. It was 17 around the weld, and heaven knows what under the welded place. That's a dramatic drop. The 4140 alloy steel has .4 carbon, so I wouldn't be responsible for what happened to a barrel after the application of heat!

AH: What other kinds of pistol reboring have you done?

Cliff: I made a Ruger Redhawk in .41 magnum over into a .45 ACP. I chamfered the chambers before rechambering for use with full moon clips. To reload, you just throw a full moon clip into the cylinder, close it and continue shooting. That modification seems to suit the owner's style of shooting very well.

I also have done a number of doggy Ruger .357 SA's over into very nice .44 specials by reboring, rerifling and rechambering.

AH: What are your guidelines in this kind of work?

Cliff: I look at the chamber pressure level

the weapon was designed to take and refuse to do anything outside the parameters of that original pressure level.

AH: You advertise yourself as a barrel reborer, rather than as a barrelmaker. What's the difference?

Cliff: The only difference is that I don't do deep hole drilling on blanks. I confine my work to enlarging existing bores, or to rebarreling, as I've already explained.

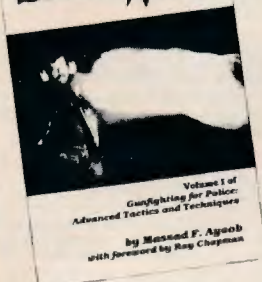
AH: Are there any secrets to superior barrel making?

Cliff: A few trade secrets, but the most important is accurate reaming. Reaming is the most important part of rifling. Rifling grooves are only .004" deep, and you are lucky to take a ten thousandth cut at each pass. If a barrel varies only half a thousandth in its length, that's 20% of the total groove depth! So, a truly smooth, uniformly reamed hole from end to end is the secret of an accurate barrel. Learn to ream accurately, and your rifling problems all disappear, and your barrel will shoot tight, consistent groups.



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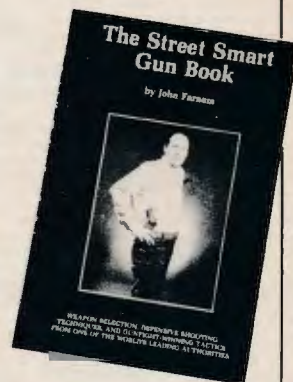
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

CAMERON HOPKINS

SYNTHETIC HANDGUN CONSTRUCTION IS NOT A TERRORIST PLOT, ASK HAMMERLI

An innovative new pistol from Hammerli features "carbon fiber" construction, a synthetic composite material "in a similar form to that currently used in the aerospace industries," according to a news release from Hammerli. The Model 280 is a modular pistol for bullseye shooting that is convertible from .22 LR to .32 S&W. Various features enhance its appeal to target shooters such as low weight, ergonomically arranged operation elements, stable recoil characteristics and its easily installed conversion unit. The Swiss target pistol is supposed to boast "an attractive price level" thanks to the money-saving manufacturing process using carbon fibers. Look for a complete test report on the new Hammerli 280 in an upcoming issue of *American Handgunner*.



Beyond the merits of this innovative new Swiss tack-driver, I see another significant advantage to the Model 280. The anti-gunners have been moaning and wailing about the Glock 17 as a "terrorist pistol" because of its synthetic, non-steel frame. Don't bother Teddy (Kennedy), Pete (Shields) and Howard (Metzenbaum) with the facts—the Glock is no more immune to airport security devices than a wooden handled Buck knife. Yes, the gun grabbers found an easy target for their half-truths and distortions in the Glock.

But the new Hammerli is a target pistol, it looks like a target pistol, and yet it is made of that nasty old terrorist stuff. Hold up a Glock and it looks like, well, it looks like a pistol. One could imagine it in a military holster, or one could easily picture it as a police sidearm—yes, it looks like a serious gun. Not so the Hammerli, it looks like a Star Wars raygun. This should demonstrate that the new technology of synthetic construction is not a plot by Ghaddafy, the Ayatollah and Mickey Gorbachev. It is a legitimate engineering development that applies equally to Olympic target pistols, the Austrian army issue-pistol and . . . who knows what

developments lie down the road?

Now that the military has adopted the Beretta 92 9mm pistol, what about all those GI .45s out there? Any chance of them eventually making it into civilian hands, like the Garand rifle? Nope, not according to Col. M.S. Gilchrist of the Department of Civilian Marksmanship. Col. Gilchrist writes, "Again, the issue of the disposition of the M1911 .45 caliber pistol has raised its head. No disposition is planned. As the M1911s are returned, they will be used to satisfy military and law enforcement requirements. Any that are left over will be stored for contingency use. We do not foresee any plans for selling the .45 caliber pistol to the civilian population."

The feud between IHMSA and Freedom Arms seems to have reached the point of penultimate pettyness. In the April 1988 issue of IHMSA's official tabloid, *The Silhouette*, a photo appears of a line-up of cartridges all of which are properly identified except one. The outcast is a .454 Casull cartridge which was labeled, in quotation marks, as the "world's most powerful something." The IHMSA organization's ostracism of the Freedom Arms .454 Casull is childish and silly but it has reached a new level of immaturity by refusing to recognize the existence of the cartridge.

A price war may be starting over 10mm Auto ammunition. Originally 10mm ammo was only available from Norma. Now Hornady and PMC have ammo on dealers' shelves. At the local gun shop where I trade, Accuracy Gun Shop in San Diego, a 20 round box of Norma costs \$16.95; a 20 round box of Hornady costs \$14.95. A 50 round box of PMC fetches \$19.95. That's just about half the price of the Hornady and well under half the price of the Norma ammo. Long live free enterprise!

The flood of Broomhandle pistols continues to saturate the surplus gun market with prices averaging around \$230 a copy. I noticed an ad the other day for Broomhandles at \$99.95 each with "barrels very poor inside. Mainly for collectors. Overall condition fair only." Century International (P.O. Box 714-C, Dept. AH, St. Albans, VT 05478) is the importer. If I were looking to recondition a Broomhandle to a good shooter—rebarrel, retune, restore—I would certainly consider one of these at what appears to be a good price. This issue's *Pistolsmithing* column discusses a gunsmith who specializes in rebarreling

Broomhandles.

The trend across the country in police departments is to switch from revolvers to autos. Police cite the increasing firepower of drug dealers, armed robbers and other criminal elements as the justification for changing from six-shot revolvers to 16-shot 9mm autos. How do the rank and file respond to their new option of packing a high-capacity 9mm? According to Commander Keith Enerson of the San Diego Police Dept. (1,200 patrol officers) a recent class graduating from the police academy favored the 9mm by almost four to one. Out of 46 graduates, 35 picked the 9mm; eleven went for the wheelgun.

It is not the place of *American Handgunner* to become embroiled in the election. We are a gun magazine, not a political forum. However, when candidates for president display their pro- or anti-gun credentials, we feel it is fair to note those positions so you can better cast your vote as a fully informed citizen of this great republic. Now to the facts.

Fact: George Bush was invited (he accepted) to address an NRA convention. He is considered pro-gun.

Fact: Mike Dukakis said, in the office of the State House, June 1986, while governor of Massachusetts, "I don't believe in people owning guns, only the police and military, and I'm going to do everything I can to disarm this state."

Fact: Mike Dukakis signed a bill as governor of Massachusetts that proclaimed October 8-14, 1984, *Massachusetts Handgun Control Week*.

Federal Cartridge's 9mm Federal, which is a rimmed 9mm case for use in revolvers, still remains unavailable. It appears Federal engineers sort of goofed and the mistake did not come to light until after a production run of ammunition. The word I get is that Pete Dickey at the *American Rifleman* examined a sample of the 9mm Federal and idly wondered, "Gee, I wonder if this will chamber in an old Smith and Wesson .38 S&W top-break revolver?" Oops, it did! The new 9mm Federal is too powerful to be fired safely in the wobbly old top-break Smith, so Federal had to scrap the entire run of ammo and head back to the drawing board. The 9mm Federal had been intended for **Ruger's** GP-100 revolver and the round was designed for law enforcement use.

Switch hitters take notice—no more **Falcon** Portsiders for left-handed shooters. Falcon Firearms is no longer in production and the inheritor of the old **Randall** tooling and inventory has shut its doors. For those of you who happened to acquire one of the Falcon Portsiders, keep it! Dennis Lau, former CEO of Falcon, says there were less than 300 Portsiders made which should make this southpaw's .45 a collector's item instantly.



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