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2022

Volume 47 • Number 4 • Issue 276

JULY/AUGUST



50



34



36

FEATURES

34 GUNCRANK DIARIES

Haunted Guns WILL DABBS, MD

36 LONG LIVE THE K-FRAME!

S&W PC Model 19 Carry-Comp MARK HAMPTON

40 STANDARD MFG's DAMASCUS 1911

Running A Looker Through the Gunsite Academy Gauntlet JEREMY CLOUGH

46 OLD SCHOOL MEETS NEW WAVE

Smith & Wesson CSX 9mm MASSAD AYOGB

50 YOUR MARK, YOUR PROPERTY

Tyler Gun Works Branded 1911 JEFF "TANK" HOOVER

54 A TURKISH DELIGHT

EAA's Girsan MC P35 Hi-Power JEREMY CLOUGH

58 LET 'EM RIP!

RMJ Tactical Lets Slip the Dogs of Steel PAT COVERT

COVER STORY

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AMERIGLO HAVEN RED DOT

New Handgun Optic! MARK HAMPTON

SILENCERCO HYBRID 46

One Can to Rule Them All WILL DABBS, MD

AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM • JULY/AUGUST 2022



46



54



30



18

DEPARTMENTS

16 PISTOLSMITHING

How to Be A Friction Fighter! GREG DERR

18 HANDGUN HUNTING

Rimfire Accuracy: Pure, Unadulterated Joy MARK HAMPTON

20 SHOOTING IRON

The Most Practical Revolver MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO

22 CARRY OPTIONS

Magnum Carry! Simply Rugged Sourdough Pancake MARK HAMPTON

24 STUDENT HANDGUNNER

Red Dots and Calling Shots SERENA JUCHNOWSKI

26 TACTICS & TRAINING

Hi-Powers for Self Defense? TIGER MCKEE

28 BETTER SHOOTING

The Perfect Training Handgun DAVE ANDERSON

30 HANDLOADING

Killin' Zs: Conclusion LINDSEY BERTOMEN

64 THE SIXGUNNER

Playin' Favorites: The 1911 .45 ACP JOHN TAFFIN

76 GUNNYSACK

Tenitor Sagax Lux2 Light AIWB Holster, NOVX 9mm Pentagon, Streamlight TLR-7A Weaponlight, Lyman 51st Edition Reloading Handbook TOM McHALE

COLUMNS

8 SPEAK OUT

14 VANTAGE POINT TOM McHALE
Battle Scars

32 COP TALK MASSAD AYOOB
Preparing for the Worst ... Aftermath

62 GUN RIGHTS ALAN KORWIN
All Politics Is Gun Politics

69 AYOOB FILES MASSAD AYOOB
Vengeance or Self-Defense? The Inez Garcia Case

82 THE INSIDER ROY HUNTINGTON
Forgetting to Remember

RESOURCES

60 HANDGUN GIVEAWAY

78 NEW PRODUCTS
DELANO AMAGUIN

75 CUSTOM CORNER

80 AD INDEX

WIN HANDGUN OF THE MONTH

60



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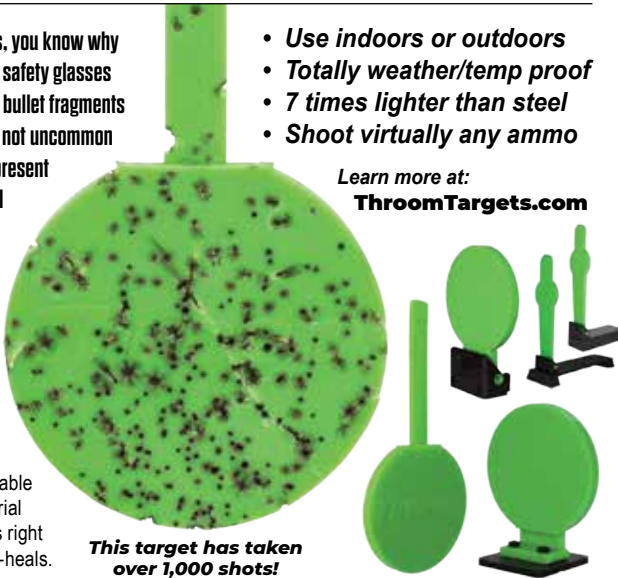
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BLOODLETTING!

Mr. Tom McHale's *Vantage Point* article "The Blood Letting" brought to mind an incident from long ago when a friend was about to shoot my High Standard Sport King .22. He assumed the proper stance and grip, but just as he was about to fire, and before I could yell "Stop," he stuck his right thumb straight up and pulled the trigger. The result was the same as Mr. McHale described in his article. Thereafter he was referred to as "Thumbs."

Charles Naretto

More Bloodletting

I just received the March/April 2022 issue of *American Handgunner* and read with empathy and a smile on my face your *Vantage Point* column, "The Bloodletting." In my case, though, the culprit was a Ruger Single 10.

I purchased said revolver to compete in my local gun club's plate shoots, which had different .22 firearms competing on different weeks. I already had a Ruger Mark III for the pistol weeks but wanted to join the fun on revolver night as well and chose the Ruger Single 10,

as single-action just seemed "right" to me. My grip was "thumbs crossed," so I could easily reach up with my left thumb to cock the hammer while keeping the gun tightly gripped in my right hand.

Then I outsmarted myself! "I could probably save a few hundredths of a second between shots by staging my left thumb on the recoil shield, there right next to the hammer rather than bringing it back down over my right thumb," said I to myself. All worked well for a few shots. Then I cocked the hammer

and rested my thumb back on the recoil shield, not noticing a bit of skin was protruding over the edge just a bit. As the hammer fell, it neatly trimmed off a bit of skin off the pad of my thumb! I was not above asking the RSO if he had a band-aid available, as the bleeding would not stop. That was, however, the last time I rested my thumb on the recoil shield. Oh, yeah, and to this day, the scar has left a 1/16" hole in my fingerprint.



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Not sure if that will affect anything if my current fingerprint is ever compared to my file fingerprints, and hopefully will never have to find out.

Immensely enjoy your magazine, as well as the Gun Cranks on YouTube.

Blair Goodlin

Well, you and I both know pain teaches unforgettable lessons! Look on the bright side; you can probably get away with all sorts of crimes, provided you use your left thumb only! — TM

Like Driving A Stick Shift?

On a recent trip to my local indoor range, I noticed red dots downrange or Trijicon sights on the guns of new shooters. Which started me to think, "Can these new shooters hit a target seven yards away without their new sights?" I was shooting my Interarms Virginian Dragoon 45 Colt at 15 yards.

A new shooter in the next bay came over and asked about my "cowboy" gun. He had never seen a single action. I asked if he would like to shoot it, and he jumped at the chance. I brought my target in to seven yards like he was shooting his 9mm. After a rundown on how to shoot a SA, my question was answered. No, he could not get a round in the black of my 8x8 target. So, I asked him to shoot his 9mm without the laser at the same target. After the 6th round, he hit the target.

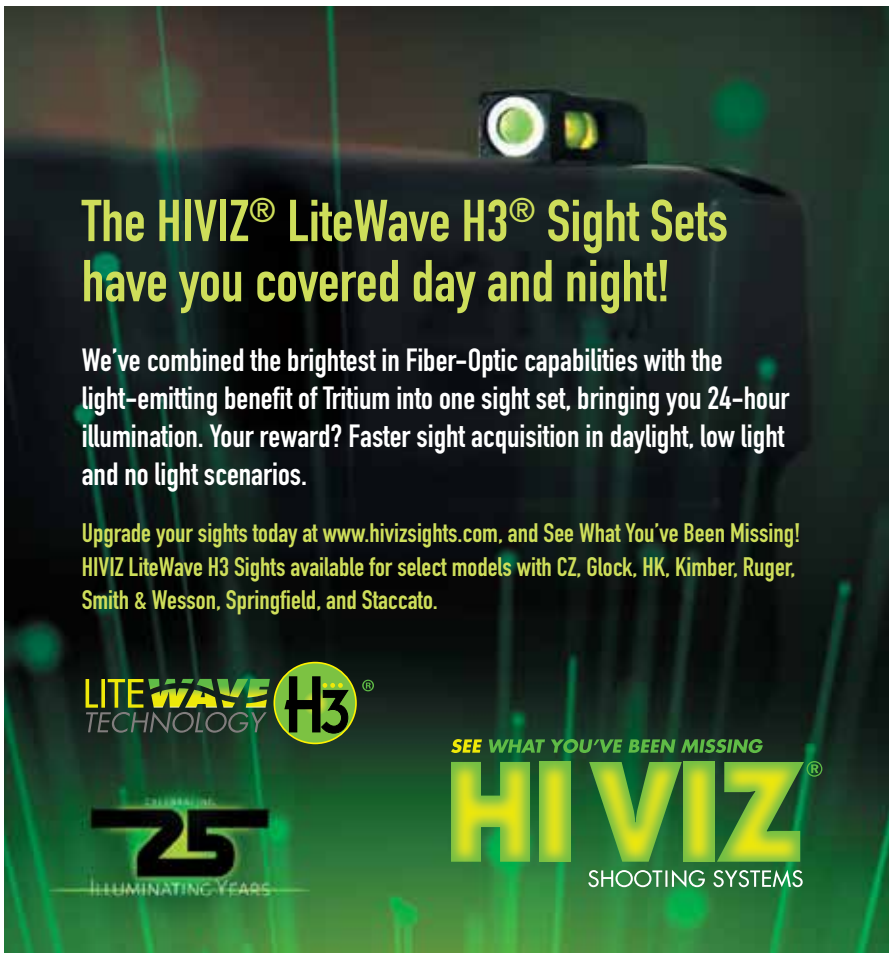
With all the new sights, are we forgetting to teach new shooters how to shoot without them? I have lasers on three of my guns, so I am not anti-laser. It just seems like the art of shooting is being lost to a new generation of shooters, or maybe this is the new way. But then it's just my humble opinion.

Ralph Fretta

I might conjecture a different take. Most new shooters I see have never been taught anything by anyone. They buy a gun and take it to the range, assuming no instruction is required. So, I don't think it's a new way of teaching, but rather an age-old problem of folks not realizing how valuable instruction is. Just my opinion. —TM

A Different Evolution?

Once upon a time, there were two evolutionary tracks: the 1911 and its descendant, the Browning Hi-Power. They had different strengths. As I recall, the Prophet Jeff himself said people buy the Browning for the gun and the 1911 for the cartridge. The smaller cartridge allowed the Browning to have that great-for-many-hand-sizes grip. But there were other changes for the better. (I would call dropping the grip safety a change for the worse, but I am apparently the only one.) If the Browning had



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been offered as a single-stack .45, the 1911 might be a distant memory.

Then two things happened at about the same time: 9mm ammunition got better, and many shapers of opinion got old enough to tell themselves lighter recoil was just as good for self-defense. So many switched from .45 to 9mm.

A more intelligent designer would have jumped to the Browning line, incorporating things learned by the 1911 line over the decades. But most merely human designers take what they are most familiar with and make small changes. When Springfield Armory shortened the front-to-back dimension of a 9mm/.40 1911 grip to match the cartridge, it was a big deal.

Since the Browning line had languished over the decades, designers went with the more familiar 1911 and kluged 9mm 1911s. Just like a dolphin is not as at home in the water like a fish, a 9mm 1911 will not fit the hand as well as a Browning. And there are kluges to make the 1911 work with a shorter cartridge than it was designed for. If the effort that went into 9mm 1911s had gone to the Browning, we might have Hi-Power descendants with a choice of steel or aluminum receivers, a choice of double or single stack, and a choice of 9mm, .40, or .357 SIG.

Richard Brandshaf

Upside Down Carry

Just read Roy's *Carry Options* piece (Jan/Feb 2022) and was compelled to comment for the first time. I'm a long-time subscriber to *GUNS* and *Handgunner* and, of course, a huge Roy H. fan.

I've been a concealed carry participant since 1976, and I was weaned on shoulder holsters from the start. I own at least one for pretty much every handgun I own, and that's more than a couple. Everything from my pre-36 snub that I carry EDC to my 8"-barrel Python. Most are of the vertical carry variety. Funny, but none are horizontal like the one Roy's demonstrating.

The type he didn't mention is the "upside-down" or "butt down" type. I particularly like these for snub-nose revolvers. I have one for the pre-36 and a Model 19 2.5". The gun lays very flat to the ribs for concealment, and they're spring-loaded, so you just tear the gun out of the holster. It's pretty quick when you practice it. The entire gun except the grip is covered. I'm not afraid with my DA revolver pointed at my armpit all day. Re-holstering does require both hands. As Roy stated, you have to practice your draw to not sweep yourself.

I love shoulder rig carry and do it

most of the time I'm not working.

Thanks for producing the great gun mags. They're the only ones I subscribe to.

George Taksery

Minx

In reference to Will Dabbs' article (March/April 2022) about the 950BS Minx, two things come to mind.

First, John loved Peggy enough to buy her this present but was a little bit of a philanderer, and if she found out and shot him, he wanted to be able to survive.

Second, maybe there's a reason Beretta added the letters "BS" after the 950.

Jeff Goodman

I was quite surprised to see your article on the 950BS Minx. About 1990, I acquired a 950 B in .22 short for \$95 from my then local gun store. Mine differs in that it is stainless and has no safety at all — just a half cock notch for the hammer. I was able to get a spare (non-stainless) magazine.

I shot it again today, in part due to Will Dabbs' article. Offhand, with 69-year-old vision, I routinely put five rounds in less than 2" at 21 feet. It has never failed to fire. It's a lot of fun to shoot, and I doubt I'll ever sell it. I would love to have it in .25 caliber so I could load my own ammo for it.

If you ever get a chance to shoot (or buy) one, I would seriously recommend it.

Keep up the good work; I really enjoy your magazine.

Patrick Cornwell

Ruger Recommendation

For a general-purpose handgun, consider Ruger's SP-101 .357 Magnum revolver. It's stainless steel, has a five-shot swing-out cylinder, double-action with 4.2" barrel and target sights for the citizen owning only one handgun.

Versatile for self-defense/house protection/concealed carry, as a kit and trail gun for the outdoorsman/sportsman, and for urban metro vs. wilderness rural use. At 30 oz. unloaded, it's lightweight yet heavy enough to handle the .357 Magnum. Loaded with .38 Special 148-grain lead target wadcutter ammo, it's practical for hunting small game: rabbit, squirrel and grouse, for dispatching vermin such as raccoon, skunk, possum, etc. Even for butchering livestock such as cattle with a headshot. Loaded with CCI's classic .38 Special shot or snake load of No. 9 shot, it's highly effective for killing rattlesnakes.

Readily and instantly accessible in reach via a nightstand, dresser or bureau drawer, or next to a sleeping bag inside a tent is very comforting armed security to have, especially at night! This handgun would also be great for a long-haul



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trucker or motorist traveling on a road trip. This .38/.357 revolver combination, along with an Atomic Beam Flashlight, survival knife, fresh drinking water, food, toilet paper, shovel, matches, wool blanket, etc., could certainly take back the night.

James Farme

The Perfect Pistol

It seems to me there is the “perfect storm” of marketing for handguns these days.

In the firearms industry, we have a multitude of manufacturers making all kinds of handguns in all kinds of calibers, in all kinds of materials in all kinds of sizes and shapes. They are made of “plastic,” of aluminum, of carbon steel, of stainless steel and every combination thereof. Never in my 72 years have I seen such a vast choice in selecting a handgun.

All of that being said, with all of the plethora of handguns to choose from, there is still no better choice for one than a good old 1911. With minor tweaks, it’s still the same basic mechanical design Mr. Browning created some 110 years

ago. Its track record is impeccable ... our official issued sidearm serving in two world wars and military conflicts all over the world. It’s still being used by some branches of our special forces in our military, various law enforcement agencies, competitive shooters and still carried by many civilians as their choice for personal defense. And, in addition to its superior functionality of purpose, old slab sides is still one of the most aesthetically pleasing handguns ever made. In my mind, it’s a piece of firearms artwork. If you haven’t gathered by now, the beautifully elegant, perfectly ergonomic and historically powerful 1911 is the perfect pistol to me! Just this old man’s opinion, but I’m guessing it will still be used another 110 years from now!

Greg Marks

Online Feedback

Jeff “Tank” Hoover’s article on Lee dies is good information on a great product. I have been using Lee dies for over 25 years and they make great ammunition. I also use the Lee Hand Press when I want to work up a new cartridge. You can easily make a handful of cartridges, try them at the range, and make adjustments to the cartridge easily to fine-tune them. I only caution if you find yourself

watching TV or some other distraction while using this hand press, it could lead to improper loading, with possibly catastrophic results.

Mike Katsonis

Revolver Cleaning

Just saw Roy’s article about cleaning revolvers. I’d like to let him know about using Chore Boy 100% copper pot scrubbers to remove lead — no chemicals necessary. Pull some strands of the copper out of the scrubbing pad, essentially a copper ribbons version of steel wool, wrap them around a cleaning brush and be pleased with how quick, easy and dry it works.

Also, Hornady One Shot works like a dry CLP. It dries very nicely and dust and unburned powder don’t cling. It’s wonderful in light loads in competition semis. It leaves a micro lube coating that is remarkable for preventing rust. I use it for all kinds of tools and guns around this humid East Coast scene.

Paul Tierney

New Shooter Content

I just started getting the magazine. It’s great. I am new to guns, still waiting for my pistol permit to come through. How about a column or article in each issue



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for the gun novices like me? I think it could be very helpful to the newcomers.

Brian Shields

Funny you should ask ... Our Student Handgunner column is intended to do just that. Written by someone new to handguns, each issue takes readers on a learning journey with her, covering the basics along with some trials and tribulations. We've been running it for about a year, so you can find the previous columns online at AmericanHandgunner.com. In the search box, enter "Student Handgunner" (with the quotes to narrow the results). —TM

Silencer In Your Pocket?

I'm reading the Jack Higgins book series with Sean Dillon as a main character. Dillon is about 5'5" and routinely puts a Carswell silencer (about 6") on a Walther and then puts it in his belt in the center of his back.

I'm reminded of the story of two young men on the beach. The first was a success with the ladies; the second not so much. The second asked the first for advice and was told his chances would improve if he bought a sweet potato and put it in his bathing suit. Later, the second one found the first young man and complained he could at least talk

to some girls before, but now they just looked at him and walked off laughing. The first young man looked him over and said, "You need to put that sweet potato in the front."

I wonder how many people told Sean Dillon the same thing.

Bruce Britain

Group Size

I just watched your review of the S&W 10mm roscow. I've always enjoyed the various methods of measuring group size. Mine is to borrow a draftsman tool, a circle template and choose the circle that encloses all shots, either center-center or outside tangents. And that's the group size. Or use various sizes of condiment/Tupperware lids to encircle your group. Or string the periphery, measure the length, then use pi R square algebra to determine the equivalent diameter.

JDD

Bearcat Trivia, Anyone?

I have a Ruger Bearcat with the serial number on the butt of the gun. I contacted Ruger, and they said they were unaware of the serial number ever placed there on a Bearcat. I have seen a lot of Bearcats with the serial number on the right side of the frame but never

the butt. Could anyone shed some light on this question? When and why did this happen? The serial number indicates it was made in 2010.

Mike Lucy

Breathtaking Guns

I just finished the March/April issue last night — I like to take my time and savor each article. As usual, I really enjoyed this issue. But Roy Huntington's article on the revolver that Hamilton Bowen remade into a 4" .45 LC was breathtaking. I found myself gawping at the photos, forgetting to breathe for several seconds at a time, etc. What a work of art! Please thank Roy for sharing the story behind this beautiful gun.

Mike Fulton

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BATTLE SCARS

My favorite hammer has accumulated a few battle scars over the years because it's been well-used.

Do me a favor? Stop reading this and go find your favorite hammer. I can wait.

Got it? Good.

Now check the finish.

Does it have any scuffs, mars, or dings? Does the rubber grip have any wear? How about the original paint on the head? That's all factory new, right?

Nah, just kidding. If you're anything like me, your favorite nail pounder shows some hard-earned mileage. My go-to hammer is an Estwing I bought some 25 or 30 years ago, best I can remember. As you can see, it's been around the block, and I'm not even a professional builder using it to pound hundreds or thousands of nails per day. I'm arguably far short of a professional carpenter, managing to bash my fingers only several times per building session.

However, my hammer has driven enough nails to build a couple of docks, several wood decks, and even a few Bluebird houses. Come to think of it, it's done its share of demolition too, and that's always a crowd-pleaser. Old docks and decks had to be smashed and broken to make room for the new.

A quality tool is tough enough to handle such work, as it should be.

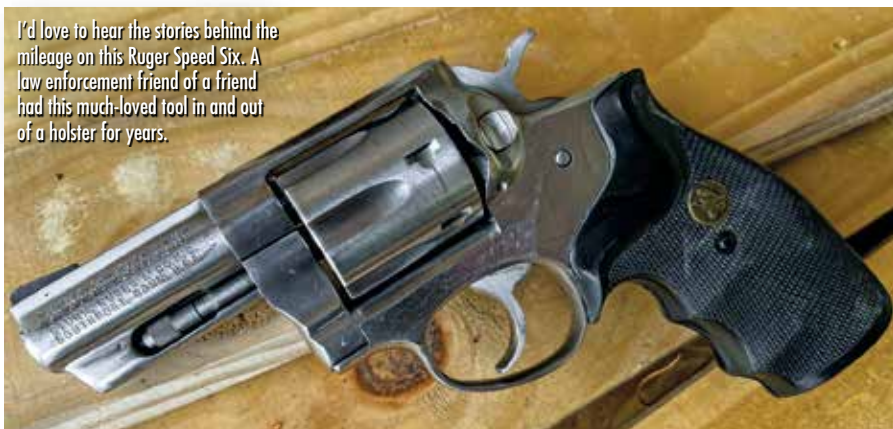
The scars on my hammer present no accusation of intentional abuse, just lots of use. It's discolored here and there showing a tiny remnant of the original label and typical dings and dents from an impact-filled life. Once useful for preventing slippage on nails, the checkering on the hammer face is mostly flattened from steel-on-steel collisions. The grip is worn smooth and offers little of the original shock resistance. These scuffs, marks and dings are battle scars, simply a byproduct of using it for the job it was designed for. If a hammer could have a purpose in life, this one would earn "well done, good and faithful servant" praise one day, even considering its not-very-skilled owner-operator.

Helicopter Gun Owners

I have friends, more than one, who treat their guns much like modern parents raise children, making valiant, though misguided, efforts to protect them from the hazards of their environment.

"No, honey, you can't have a skate-

I'd love to hear the stories behind the mileage on this Ruger Speed Six. A law enforcement friend of a friend had this much-loved tool in and out of a holster for years.



Sadly, this Colt 1903 crosses the line from mileage scars to abuse. Someone let rust do its nasty work.

This Springfield 1911 TRP is a well-loved and well-used tool for me and has the thumb and holster wear to show it. No "abuse" damage, just proper mileage.

board. They're dangerous. Imagine what could happen if you fell off!"

"No, I can't go to the range today. It's raining, and I don't want my guns to get wet. Besides, the magazines might get muddy."

You know the routine. At the range, they meticulously open the original factory shipping box, carefully removing the pistol or revolver from the original non-corrosion sleeve. Thankfully, most don't wear white gloves during the ritual. The magazine is stored in its foam cutout, or maybe under that impossible to re-shape cardboard storage area in less-expensive corrugated packaging. A clean towel is laid out on the range bench to protect against dust and scratches.

Once removed and displayed, the gun is cover-girl-ready. Even Rob Jones, our professional photographer extraordinaire, would be tempted to spare his alcohol wipes before setting up the cameras for a cover shoot. And they'll stay that way because the slide or barrel will never abrade on the inside of a holster, and the magazines will never touch the ground. Heck, an unscrupulous owner could sell these guns as unfired for years after the original purchase.

Safe Queens, Safe Dreams

Being somewhat libertarian, I don't have any issues with safe queens. In fact, I have a couple myself. One is a Series 1 Colt Woodsman, bought by my grandfather in 1936. He rarely, if ever,

This SIG P229 Legion has held up well through thousands of holster draws; only the sights show mileage signs.



shot it, so to this day, it remains in pristine condition. He did toss the original packaging, choosing to store this gem in a lightly oiled rag, but in all other respects, it looks fresh out of the box some 86 years after its birth date. I don't bring this on rainy days, nor do I use it with a holster or drop magazines on the ground. It's the firearm equivalent of that classic restored car one only drives on sunny spring days. Then again, I don't plan to use it for defensive purposes. And therein lies the rub. The Woodsman is not a tool; it's an heirloom.

If one intends to buy a gun for defensive use, it darn well better develop some battle scars. I'm not talking about dents and gouges; I'm talking about "mileage" scars.

If your carry or home defense firearm doesn't have any finish wear marks on high-traffic areas like safety levers, decockers and the like, it hasn't been ... used. If your carry gun doesn't have some scuff or wear on the slide or sights from thousands of holster draws, it hasn't been ... used. These guns are safe dreams. One dream of a satisfying cowboy movie ending should they ever be called for defensive duty.

Okay, there are some wear and tear exceptions. That Tenifer stuff on GLOCK slides seems as indestructible as Maxine Waters, and I know there are a couple of other equally wear-resistant finishes. But you get the idea.

Scars Have Stories

My worn hammer brings back memories every time I use it. Sore arms from 10 trillion nails the day before, but also happy times swinging in a half-submerged hammock under that new dock.

Guns with scars carry their own stories, hopefully, happy ones. Good times at the range. That time when an instructor humbled an overly cocky student (yours truly) by getting him so con-fuzzled, he was dropping full magazines in the mud. You know, good times.

Scars mark significant stops on the subway of life. It's okay for your "tool" guns to have some.





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PISTOLSMITHING

BE A FRICTION FIGHTER!



The first thing I hear from most pistol owners is how they want a smoother and lighter trigger. I do countless trigger jobs each year. But it's more than the hammer and sear that make for a smooth pistol action.

Trigger mechanisms and pistols, in general, are complex devices with many moving parts interfacing or connecting with other parts. This means they rub or move with other parts, levers and springs. It's in this movement that friction is created. It may be slight, but it all adds up with the number of connections. When pistols are assembled at most factories, the goal is to assemble a safely functioning firearm — there is little time for fine-tuning.

POLISH THE DRAG OUT

I spend much time smoothing and polishing each part and spring to reduce friction before even considering the obvious sear and hammer or sear and striker relationship. Most factory parts are etched with machine marks or stamping burrs, creating friction and drag when put together. The first thing is to study the relationship of the parts to one another. I never take a pistol apart without knowing how it works and is assembled. Once the areas of friction are identified, I try to isolate the friction using Dykem or soot. This allows me to work on just the points of friction or contact. Let's be clear — this is *not* a “trigger job.”

Parts for polishing include the trigger bar, disconnecter and or springs. Removing too much material can ruin a good part or make a

pistol unsafe; this is more polishing than removing material — for example, the trigger bow on a 1911. The bow makes contact with the inner sides of the frame, contacts the disconnecter at the rear, the pad or trigger shoe contacts the trigger track. Don't forget magazines can rub the inside of the trigger bow. These areas can cause friction or drag, making for poor trigger feel.

I polish all the contact areas identified with Dykem on a soft buffing wheel coated with polishing compound. This results in a mirror finish for most points of contact. I file or mill the trigger pad to move freely in the track. Next, I polish the disconnecter on the pad, which contacts the trigger bow, the head that rides in the frame tunnel. I check the tunnel for burrs.

LAPPING

Another area that frequently bears on function is the slide to frame rail smoothness. Many models have contact with a barrel bushing. For these jobs, I turn to lapping. Lapping is a method of using an abrasive compound to burnish surfaces to one another. For lapping, use only non-embedding compounds like JB Bore Compound — my favorite. Non-embedding compounds will not clog the microscopic pores of the metal, and it washes off easily after use. I lap all my 1911 builds by hand after machine fitting. This results in a tight, buttery smooth fit. The barrel to bushing fit on 1911s is also an excellent area for lapping. A smoothly fit pistol functions better.

In many pistol models, springs travel in tunnels, like a

firing pin spring or a mainspring. I polish these too, both the spring itself and the tunnel it travels in. Flex Hone brushes are an excellent choice for tunnels or tubes. The hone with many polishing bristles is on a long rod, which I place in a drill chuck to spin in the tube or tunnel. I place springs over a mandrel or rod and run them over a buffing wheel.

The sear and hammer or striker surfaces are essential to smooth trigger release. They typically need a very light touch to smooth them out. I can't stress enough how little polishing or lapping should be done. In many cases, too smooth a surface is just as bad as a rough surface. Leave these to professionals with experience and the ability to test their work. No one wants an accidental discharge.

The polished mainspring of a 1911 with polished caps; the Flex Hone used to polish the interior of the mainspring housing.



The rub mark on the bottom of a 1911 sear should not contact the hammer half-cock notch.



The 1911 sear spring and polished contact points for the sear and disconnecter.



An S&W rebound slide and spring mirror polished. The spring travels inside the rebound slide.



In an S&W revolver, the rebound slide and spring create the most friction. These get lots of stoning and polishing. I check the pawl for contact with the side plate. I know this sounds like a lot, but remember these parts are cast, machined or stamped out by the thousands. Nicks and burrs abound. Polishing and smoothing are labor-intensive but worth it.





*OPTIC AND LIGHT NOT INCLUDED

MASADA

TACTICAL

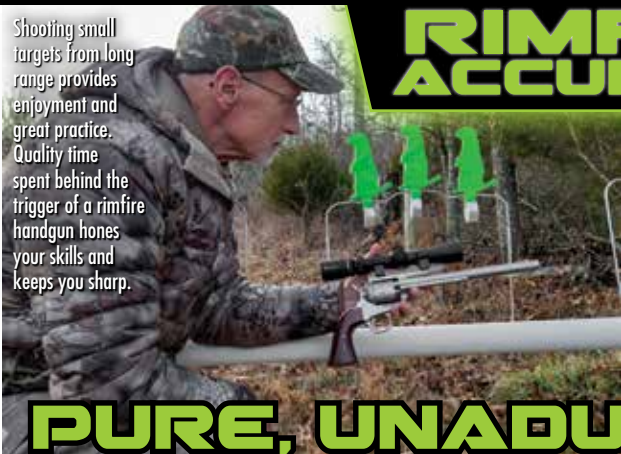
The MASADA Tactical is a 9mm, impact-resistant, fiberglass reinforced, polymer-framed striker-fired pistol featuring a low-profile barrel for reduced perceived recoil. Trusted in modern battlefields and hard environments, this firearm is built with easily removable and modular-serialized high-grade steel trigger mechanism housing, allowing for simple disassembly and maintenance. It includes an intuitive pointing grip angle to enhance the shooter's accuracy and safety, as well as three interchangeable wrap-around back-straps with a deep beavertail to accommodate multiple hand sizes.



IWI.US

Shooting small targets from long range provides enjoyment and great practice. Quality time spent behind the trigger of a rimfire handgun hones your skills and keeps you sharp.

RIMFIRE ACCURACY:



A variety of ammo tested; all proved worthy of punching bug hole groups from 25 yards.

PURE, UNADULTERATED JOY

Handgun hunters can benefit greatly from shooting a .22 rimfire. Most everyone will agree to this, but I find myself overlooking the obvious sometimes. Practicing with a .22 LR will keep you in tune with fundamentals such as grip tension, breath control, trigger press, target acquisition, among other essen-

tial aspects. It's less expensive, so we can practice more. Quality trigger time with a rimfire yields rewards and will pay dividends when big game seasons roll around.

Hunting small game such as squirrels and rabbits is one of the best ways to prepare for upcoming hunts. I grew up hunting with my dad and headshots

were mandatory as we ate what we shot. And mom could make a mean plate of fried squirrels with biscuits and gravy! Gray squirrel heads do not offer a very big target, so accuracy was essential. I had young eyes and steady nerves back in those days — not so today. Scopes are necessary and accuracy is still indispensable.

RIMFIRE PRECISION

At this stage of my journey, accuracy is even more critical. Shooting rocks or tin cans on the pond bank is entertaining, but I would rather pursue more precise shot placement. Everyone may have their definition of what constitutes top-shelf accuracy from a .22 LR. *For me, placing a five-shot group from 25 yards in one ragged hole defines accuracy.* At 50 yards, a five-shot group in 1/2" or less is my ambition. To achieve this level of accuracy, you need a gun capable and the ammo to match.

Recently I bought a Freedom Arms Model 83 in .22 LR with a 10" barrel. Never in my wildest dreams did I consider spending this much on a rimfire handgun. I actu-

ally thought about submitting myself to psychiatric evaluation. My only regret after shooting this superbly accurate revolver? I should have purchased one sooner!

When you acquire a new .22 LR, the next best thing is to procure as many different brands of ammo as possible. Shoot five-shot groups with all of these brands from 25 yards, and you'll soon find out which brand your particular gun prefers. If you're lucky, the gun will shoot cheap ammo well. Occasionally I have found this to work out and consider the result most fortunate for my wallet. It's not uncommon to find premium ammo such as Lapua, Eley, or similar ammo to be most consistent and accurate. The Freedom Arms Model 83 seems to prefer Lapua Center-X ammo, but Eley or CCI Green Tag is running mighty close.

FREEDOM PERFORMANCE

At the range, the Model 83 can punch a ragged hole with five shots at 25 yards. It will keep five shots in 1/2" at 50 yards when I do my part. With a Berris 2-7x scope featuring the ballistic plex reticle, which provides hashmarks below the center crosshair, I just had to see what this gun would do at 100 yards.

I can't, with a clear conscience, put in print the result of the five-shot group, but I was surprisingly shocked! Not that I would shoot at small game from this distance, but it was interesting to see what the gun and ammo could produce.

The Freedom Arms Model 83 is an extremely well-built revolver with tight tolerances. Fit and finish are immaculate. Suffice to say; this is a premium .22 LR handgun. I have other Model 83s in larger calibers suited for big game hunting — all with 10" barrels. They all have the same grip configuration and trigger pull — basically the same

gun. In terms of familiarity, it sure is nice to practice with the .22 LR then switch to the

.44 Magnum for big game hunting. And the rimfire is much easier on my hands than the 454 Casull!

Karen and I will be shooting a rimfire competition at Handgun Hunters Competition in Newcastle, Wyo. Targets will be placed at various ranges from approximately 25 to 150 yards. It will be fun and challenging. We're currently practicing at a rimfire gallery we set up on our farm. We're shooting from a makeshift field position you would expect to encounter on a hunt — not from a bench with sandbags.

Well, I think I've finally stumbled upon my "ultimate squirrel gun." The Freedom Arms Model 83 does a fine job tackling some small targets providing I do my part. With the aid of CCI's Green Tag ammo, squirrels better hunt a hole. There's something special about an accurate .22 handgun — it's a real treat!



The Freedom Arms Model 83 topped with a Berris scope yields a mighty accurate .22 LR revolver. The combination of gun, optic and Lapua Center-X ammo produces superb accuracy.

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[Trijicon.com/IronSights](https://www.trijicon.com/IronSights).



THE MOST PRACTICAL REVOLVER

For starters, let me say I've never been a certified firearms instructor, never been trained as a law enforcement officer, never served in the military and never been involved in a firearms altercation. I have been an avid handgun shooter since 1966, having owned hundreds of revolvers and pistols, and fired untold thousands, maybe over 100,000 factory loads and handloads through them during the 55 years. And I've written a couple of thousand magazine articles.

With the above in mind, I'm not keen to give opinions on defensive firearms. Regardless, I'm sometimes asked for advice by non-shooters who somehow become aware of what I do for a living. The conversations go like this, "Mike, what do you recommend I (or my wife) get for a handgun?" My reply, "To what end?" They usually say, "Uh, to get one to keep in my home." Again, I question, "Do you intend to get involved in recreational shooting, competition or at least attend a training class?" Vague reply, "Uh, maybe someday, but I'm awfully busy right now."

That's when I stop and say, "Find yourself a .38 Special double-action revolver, preferably with a 4" barrel. Other brands exist, but my favorites are S&W Model 10 M&P .38 Specials. My answer generally takes the questioner by surprise, and they respond, "I thought you would say GLOCK or SIG or some sort of semi-auto."



Two of Duke's S&W M&P (pre-Model 10) .38 Specials with 2" and 5" barrels.



In its 122-year history, S&W M&P/Model 10 .38 Specials have been made with blue and nickel-plated finishes.

SEMI-AUTOS FOR BEGINNERS?

No, I wouldn't recommend a semi-auto for a novice: Not now, not ever, never!

Semi-autos require training and experience. Have you ever watched a novice fumble about loading magazines and getting them seated in pistols properly? Some pistols have safeties that need mastering. Also, they will have either a single-action or double-action trigger mechanism. And how about the following: malfunctions caused by ammunition, malfunctions caused by limp-wristing, or malfunctions caused by dirty gun and/or ammo? And perhaps above all, the matter of whether one should keep a semi-auto's chamber loaded or unloaded.

Now consider this. A Model 10 M&P has no safety, but it won't fire unless the trigger is pulled. In a double-action with the trigger's long pull, firing must be intentional. Model 10 M&P sights are fixed and duly (hopefully) factory regulated for ammo with about 150- to 160-grain bullets at about 800 to 850 fps. There are oodles of factory loads that fit those parameters.

Time Tested

S&W unveiled the K-Frame Military & Police in 1899, and the revolver, in turn, was the introductory vehicle for the .38 Special. It is one of the finest all-around revolver cartridges ever developed. Until 1957 the S&W factory assigned names to their handguns. This new one became Military & Police, but after 1957 it officially became Model 10. M&P/Model 10s have been made in blue finish, nickel-plated finish and even stainless steel. The SS ones were named Model 64 and Modelv65. There is also a variation called Model 12. It is nothing more than the Model 10 but with a frame of aluminum alloy. Barrel lengths have been 2", 3", 4", 5", 6" and 6½". Maybe there are some others of which I'm not aware. Model 10/M&P barrels were almost pencil-thin, but the company offered a heavy barrel option in later years.

In his excellent book *The K-Frame Revolver*, author Timothy J. Mullin relates that over 8,000,000 K-Frame S&W revolvers had been made by the time of his writing (Copyright 2013). Of course, many of those were .22s, .32s, .38 S&Ws and .357 Magnums. I'd bet cold, hard cash the most significant number were chambered for .38 Special. They are still available, newly made by

S&W, albeit only with 4" barrels. Used ones are not rare.

After my comment to advice seekers, some get snarky and say, "So you'd have us rank and file buy obsolete old revolvers, but I bet you keep modern pistols for yourself." As a rule, I wouldn't say I like to give advice preferring only to relate what I do personally. So, my answer to such a comment is, "I won't tell you where I keep them, but in my home are stashed away two S&W Model 10/M&P .38 Specials. One has a 2" barrel and the other a five incher. Also, there is a Model 12 with a 2" barrel." And I don't keep them loaded with the newest types of ammo: just ordinary factory loads with lead semi-wadcutter or semi-wadcutter hollowpoint bullets.

S&W Model 10 Military & Police .38 Specials are point-and-shoot home guns. No more practical, down-to-earth, no-nonsense handgun has ever existed.



This assortment of cartridges illustrates a small part of .38 Special factory loads past and present. From left: 158-gr. "Police" RN, 148-gr. WC, 200-gr. "Super Police" RN, U.S. military 130-gr. FMJ tracer, 158-gr. SWC-HP in an aluminum case, 125-gr. +P JHP and 158-gr. "Cowboy" load.

NO. 1

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MAGNUM CARRY!



Sourdough Pancake holster with leather ammo pouch makes for an ideal combination. The practical ammo pouch discreetly holds loose cartridges or a Tuff Products Quickstrip.

Simply Rugged Sourdough Pancake holster fits comfortably close to the body. This high ride holster can easily be concealed with a vest, coat, or sweatshirt.



SIMPLY RUGGED SOURDOUGH PANCAKE



Choosing the right holster for your particular need or circumstance is an important decision. Depending on the specific gun, purpose, or manner you wish to carry your handgun, quality holsters can accommodate individual needs and satisfy the most stringent requirements.

Like many of you, my carry gun varies depending on situations and conditions. It's getting colder now in my neck of the woods, and generally, I switch from a compact semi-auto to a revolver. This year I'm packing a K-Frame, S&W Model 19 Carry Comp. The K-Frame conceals easily with a vest or coat, and I like packing a .357 Magnum. The holster choice for carrying this 3" Model 19 was easy for me — Simply Rugged's Sourdough Pancake.

SIMPLE ... AND RUGGED

I've been pleased with several versions of Simply Rugged's holsters in the past — and I really like the company to boot. Rob Leahy of Simply Rugged started stretching hide back in 2004 while enjoying life in Alaska. This backcountry lifestyle helped Rob create unique ways to carry a handgun — especially his Chesty Puller System, which he developed after a close encounter with a bear. Rob eventually headed south to warmer climates and now operates out of a 1,600 square foot building in sunny Arizona. As the name implies, his leather holsters feature a simple design yet are very rugged, protecting the handgun. Rob uses vat-dyed Hermann Oak leather for his holsters, belts and leather gun accessories.

PANCAKE CARRY

After wearing the Sourdough Pancake (not to be confused with a paddle holster) around town and for hikes on the farm, I find it comfortable, and it carries the S&W revolver safely. The leather completely encompasses the revolver with the trigger guard tucked inside the leather. There are three belt slots, each 1.75" wide, allowing the holster to be worn on either the strong side or in the cross-draw position at a 45-degree cant. I've been wearing a 1.5" heavy belt without issue from the slightly larger belt slots.

This high-ride pancake holster offers excellent retention and concealment. My vest, jacket, or even a sweatshirt covers the gun completely. The Model 19 Carry Comp fits snugly next to my body — and what I really appreciate — the gun doesn't flop around! This well-thought-out design does not require a thumb snap for retention, yet the gun can be easily drawn. The bottom of the holster is open, allowing anything you don't want, such as dust or moisture, to flow through.

CARRY OPTIONS

I've always worn the Sourdough Pancake holster on my strong side outside the waistband. However, with add-on loops, you can convert this holster to be carried IWB. You can even incorporate the Sourdough Pancake into the Chesty Puller System, allowing another carry method.

The holster I wear is tan but is also available in oxblood and black. These holsters are available in basketweave, fish scale embossing, floral carving, black alligator, black sharkskin and even ostrich hide for those looking for something with a little more spice. There are a lot of nifty choices for individual tastes and desires.

Simply Rugged makes a simple but most useful leather ammo pouch. This neat compact pouch carries loose ammo. Mine holds seven rounds of .357 Mag. and six rounds of .44 Mag. For those

who wish to carry their ammo in Tuff Products Quickstrip, the ammo pouch neatly holds and conceals a loaded strip. This simple little pouch is very discreet yet so practical. I wish I'd thought of it.

Simply Rugged offers an extensive line of leather products to complement their quality holsters. Need a sheath for your favorite knife or frequently used tool? No worries, Simply Rugged has got you covered. Premium gun belts can also be found in Rob's goodie shop, along with some nice long gun accessories, wallets and more.

I couldn't be happier with the Sourdough Pancake holster as it carries the S&W Model 19 Carry Comp like a champ — safely and comfortably. Rob is a veteran along with his other employees, and I thank them all for their service. Simply Rugged offers a 5% discount to all military veterans. Simply ... a great American company!



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RED DOTS AND CALLING SHOTS

I resisted mounting a scope on my service rifle for the longest time. High power service rifle was strictly iron sights until just a few years ago when rules changed to allow 4.5x optics and I was determined to stay true to tradition. After a year of holding out, I realized 4.5x scopes weren't so much an advantage as an opportunity for shooters who struggled with vision to continue to compete.

FIRST EXPERIENCES

I am well aware red dots are not scopes. They aren't magnified, but my approach to them nearly matches my scope experience. I've grown up around iron sights. I never thought about owning a red dot other than to mount on a shotgun for turkey hunting. One experience, though not my first with red dots, changed that.

I've shot dozens of pistols at media events, many of which were equipped with red dot sights. Most were exposed reflex — smaller red dots with a sleeker design ideal for

concealed carry. Even though I was told shooting with a red dot was "easier," sometimes it just seemed harder.

If you have a properly zeroed, quality red dot, this isn't the case. Last fall, I spent some time with the Army Marksmanship Unit's Pistol Team. For those unfamiliar, the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) is a tight-knit, elite unit dedicated to winning shooting competitions, setting records and training others — raising marksman-ship standards throughout the Army.

SHOT CALL VISIBILITY

At the risk of sounding like a gushy high schooler, red dots are amazing. I spent the afternoon with SSG Anthony Heinauer at the Hibbs outdoor range, which featured a plate rack and Bianchi mover. Shooting the plate rack and movers were new experiences for me. Rather than remaining as still as possible, I needed to engage multiple targets, or a moving target, as quickly as possible. I started on the plate rack with the .45. I was surprised at how successful I was, missing just a few plates, though I couldn't very well call my shots. Every time I shot the .45, I had no concept of where my shots would land exactly. It was always a surprise. I couldn't articulate scoring ring values with the iron sights, just direction.

Transitioning to the .22LR with a red dot allowed me to pinpoint exactly where my shots were going. While I could say I pulled a shot to the right or left based on where my sights landed

after the shot, I couldn't tell you what scoring ring they landed in with irons with much accuracy. With the red dot, I placed the dot exactly where I wanted the shot to land, and it would land there, as long as I didn't mess anything else up. If I jerked the trigger or moved the gun in any direction, I could easily see the effect as I was shooting. *Following the red dot showed my path of motion.*

One of the most satisfying feelings in the world is a bullet hitting precisely where you're aiming. I could tell you with utmost certainty exactly where each shot was going as I pulled the trigger — because I could clearly see the "sight" (dot) and the target clearly. The fact the dot didn't need

to be perfectly centered in the glass to hit where I was aiming surprised and delighted me. To my astonishment, I performed incredibly well, even cleaning a target on the mover stage. Comparing the groups I fired on the mover range with the .45 to the .22, there was a marked difference. My groups shrunk exponentially.

I had the fundamentals. The time between shots would be longer with the .45 as recoil is a longer process for a .45 than .22.

I left that day with a newfound appreciation for red dots and how accurate they can allow me to be. Next step in search of small groups? Try a red dot ...

Serena first shot the plate rack with the .45, then moved to the .22 with a red dot. SSG Anthony Heinauer on the right.



Shooting the Bianchi mover was an exciting task. Serena had never shot a moving target before. It was tough with irons but much easier with a red dot.



Reviewing targets with SSG Anthony Heinauer. The black circle is considered the x. Anything inside the next ring is a 10.



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HI-POWERS FOR SELF DEFENSE?

Cylinder & Slide offers parts for customizing and tuning the Hi-Power.

XS Sights and others can supply the tritium sights needed for defensive work.

HI-CAP EXPERT PISTOL?

Yes, the Hi-Power is a single-action pistol. It's carried "cocked and locked" with a round in the chamber, hammer cocked, and thumb safety engaged. *Proper manipulation of the Hi-Power and 1911s requires constant thumb safety operation.* As you come on target, the safety is disengaged. After firing, you come off the trigger, off the target into an appropriate ready position and engage the safety, placing the thumb on top of the safety where it's ready for the next shot.

This makes you safe, ensures the safety is disengaged every time you come on target — a good habit — and serves as a "system check." The safety won't engage if the slide is out of battery — there's a problem needing your attention. Compared to striker-fired designs without external thumb safeties, the Hi-Power requires a little more

thought, training and practice. While not for everyone, for those willing to put in the time, the single-action Hi-Power is a reliable, safe design, ideal for concealed carry and self-defense.

A significant factor when choosing a pistol today is magazine capacity. Hi-Powers were the first "high-capacity" semi-auto pistol. The original double-stack magazines held 13 rounds, but those "in the know" only loaded 12. Today you can choose between reliable 13- or 15-round mags, FN's new design holds 17 and there are 10-rounders for compliance in "restricted" states. All of

these have more than enough capacity to qualify the Hi-Power for defensive use. Fill 'em with modern, defensive ammunition — which has evolved dramatically since 1935 — and you've got a contemporary carry package that's more than accurate enough for its intended purpose.



The reliable Hi-Power is a simple design.

It only takes a couple of punches and knowledge to disassemble.

NEW TWEAKS ON OLD DESIGN

An age-old, legitimate complaint about Hi-Powers is the trigger action. It was sometimes less than desirable but much like most military weapons. This is no longer a problem. Many newer generation Hi-Powers have smooth, crisp triggers, ideal for defensive use, right out of the box. A qualified 'smith, familiar with Hi-Power work, can tune older models or adjust for a lighter "target" trigger for competition-only pistols. A properly tuned Hi-Power has an outstanding trigger action, only surpassed by the 1911.

Another issue, especially in America, is the magazine disconnect. The pistol will only fire with a mag locked in place in the original design. Blame this one on the French. Do you leave it in place — not a good idea, in my opinion

— or knowingly remove a "safety" device, opening you up for legal problems? Luckily, Springfield and FN have removed this feature from their new Hi-Powers. And who knows, with pistols being manufactured without this feature, maybe it will open up discussion about removing it from pistols that do it.

Ensuring the pistol properly fits your needs is critical. The pistol's size and shape must be physically proportional to hand size; this may require some modifications or swapping out stocks. Sights that are "fit" for defensive applications must work for you in all lighting conditions. There are plenty of accessories and after-market parts for Hi-Powers to achieve these goals. Check with the folks at Cylinder & Slide. Plus, Hi-Powers are roughly 1/2" shorter in length and 1/4"

smaller in height than a full size 1911 and about 7 oz. lighter. You'll also find a variety of compatible holsters, magazines and pouches.

The "old" Hi-Power isn't for everyone, but neither are 1911s or revolvers. But, for defensive use, it's a proven design that more than holds its own against any other handgun. Plus, it's a great way to connect with the past. Studying the history of the Hi-Power — manufactured and fielded by both Axis and Allied troops during WWII — reflects "modern" times and John M. Browning's influence.

For more info: Cylinder-Slide.com, XSSights.com



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THE PERFECT TRAINING HANDGUN

In the '60s and '70s, S&W had an ad for their K22 revolver with the headline "The Beginner's Gun the Experts Can't Put Down." The K22 is a lot more than a beginner's gun, but the novice handgunner who starts with a K22 is fortunate indeed. A K22 wasn't the first handgun I owned — it was the third, as I recall — but it taught me more about shooting a handgun than any other before or since.

It seems the concept of learning the basics with a .22 has become old school. I get it. Many buyers want a handgun for defense and don't like the idea of buying more than one. They buy a centerfire and they're satisfied if they can hit a silhouette target at five yards.

I know of no better tool for learning handgun skills than a quality double-action revolver. For me, the K22 is about perfect. The first one I owned was a Model 17 made in the early 1970s. This was the model number assigned to the K22 when S&W introduced model numbers in 1957. The original K22/Model 17 revolvers weighed about 38 1/2 oz. The current Classic Model 17 weighs just under 40 oz., while the stainless 617 with a 6" barrel is a bit over 44 oz.

Good options for shooters finding these a bit heavy are the model 63 with a 4" barrel at just under 25 oz. and a personal favorite, the Ruger SP-101 .22 at 30 oz.

Here's why I like the K22 and similar revolvers as training tools:

TRIGGER QUALITY

A cocked double-action revolver has about the best out-of-the-box trigger break available. With the K22, there is virtually no perceptible take-up, creep, or over-travel and the pull is consistent. Just index the sights on target and smoothly increase pressure until the shot breaks. If the only handgun you've shot is a service-style 9mm semiauto, experiencing a really good trigger pull is a revelation.

ADJUSTABLE SIGHTS

I have nothing against fixed sights; in fact, I prefer them for applications such as concealed carry, provided they are correctly sighted. The novice shooter is much better served with easily adjustable sights, especially considering point of impact can change as the shooter learns a more consistent sight picture, hand position and grip strength, and trigger control.

AMMUNITION VERSATILITY

For target shooting, plinking and training, I use and recommend standard velocity .22 LR cartridges. A revolver provides the option of using .22 Shorts or even CB caps if reduced

noise is desired. It used to save money back when .22 Shorts were cheaper than Long Rifles. These days one can hardly find Shorts for sale, and if you do, they often cost as much or more. For small game hunting and pest control, high-speed Long Rifles are an option.

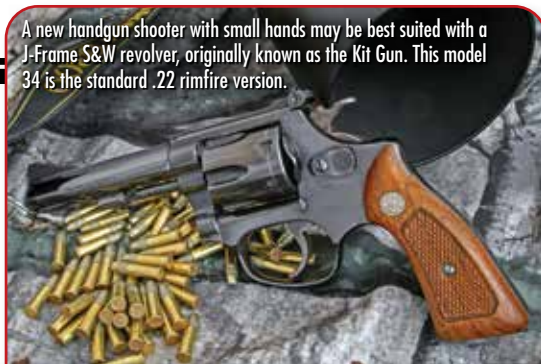
GRIP SIZE AND SHAPE

If the revolver has a fault, it is the grips used on older models, which left a big ditch behind the trigger guard. On my older guns, I often add a grip adapter. Current production revolvers have much-improved grip styles and there are many aftermarket styles. Most revolvers permit the shooter to easily fit grips to suit their hand size or add features such as finger grooves. Synthetic grips offer an alternative to wood.

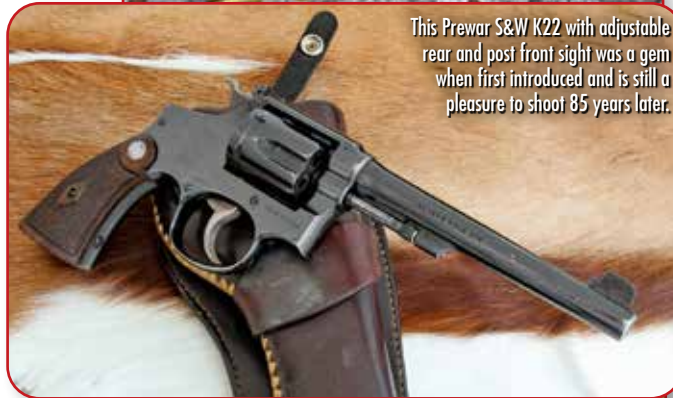
SAFETY

I hesitate to say revolvers are safer than semiauto pistols. Strictly speaking, the shooter, not the gun, is safe or unsafe. Still, when a novice is shooting a handgun, I feel more comfortable if it's a revolver. After firing a shot from a cocked revolver,

A new handgun shooter with small hands may be best suited with a J-Frame S&W revolver, originally known as the Kit Gun. This model 34 is the standard .22 rimfire version.



This Prewar S&W K22 with adjustable rear and post front sight was a gem when first introduced and is still a pleasure to shoot 85 years later.



Dave's favorite K22s are this pair from the early 1950s before S&W model numbers were introduced.

the next shot can only be fired by a long, heavy pull or by cocking the hammer. After a shot is fired from a semiautomatic, the pistol is loaded, cocked, off-safe and ready to fire again with a short, light trigger pull.

One way around this is to load one cartridge at a time, which is a good idea for a novice with any handgun. This does get old in a hurry. I won't make a huge issue of safety and the DA revolver — I can only point out my personal preference.

Fans of SA revolvers may feel I'm slighting their choice. Not at all; I would as soon teach with a single action. In some ways, it's even safer since the hammer must be manually cocked for every shot. I prefer the DA since the SA pull is usually excellent, plus the shooter may someday want to acquire skill at DA shooting.





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Continued from the May/June issue.

KILLIN' Zs: CONCLUSION

Alderman Malachi David (LtCol Ret.)
William B. Ruger Compound, Area X-Ray, Free Montana Territory
February 14th, 2173 anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi

My Dearest Uncle Kai,

I pray that everything is well in Free Montana. We had only a minor infiltration of Zs on our eastern border. We captured a capitol patrol in October. I was shown a newer way to powder coat bullets, commonly used in the 2020s. The G2 has allowed me to send it without redaction.

PATROL REPORT

SGT Natalie Tektone, A Co. 3rd BDE, 2nd Daniel Regiment
Free Kansas, near the border of Sovereign Texas

We captured a patrol today. The 11 troops, one deceased, surrendered immediately. The officers had AR-15s, but the rest of the troops had Mossberg 930s loaded with slugs. Each of them was carrying a S&W Shield in .40 S&W.

I was curious about their unique .40 S&W cartridges and SPC Juliet led me to the back of her Rover and showed me how they were made. The furnace and baking oven were coal-fired, but our bullet-making tasks are much easier since we have an abundance of electricity.

The bullets came from a Lee 90690, a .401 six-cavity, 175-grain, LTC mold with a single lube groove. Using an alloy similar to Linotype, it throws 175-grain bullets consistently, but she recommended we always keep the mold hot when pouring. Keeping it on top of the lead furnace or a hot plate works well. For the .401 sized bullets, a cold mold produces a wrinkly bullet, and a hot mold throws frosty ones. The bullets will be completely consistent once the user gets into a good rhythm, but this mold is sensitive to temperature.

Juliet powder coated these bullets in two colors: Eastwood Powder Mirror Blue and Harbor Freight White. The way the powder was applied was unique. It should be noted Capitol troops do not have clan colors, so these colors are her personal preference but serve the same purpose.

She made a slurry of the Eastwood paint and lacquer thinner, about the same consistency of heavy cream. The consistency of this mix was controlled by pouring a couple of tablespoons of powder into a bowl, then adding lacquer, stirring constantly. If she could swirl the mixture by agitating the bowl, the consistency was about right.

The bullets were dumped into the slurry. She did as many as 50 at a time, stirring constantly. When they were coated evenly, she dumped the bullets over a piece of garden fencing with 1/2" square openings. The slurry drained into a pan, which she dumped back into the bowl. The volatile lacquer thinner dries within a couple of minutes, allowing Juliet to handle the bullets with her fingers. She set them base down onto a cooking sheet.

Using a saltshaker full of Harbor Freight white powder coat paint, she shook a light coat of powder on the dry coated bullets on the tray, then baked them. The bullets came out looking like snowcapped mountains.

She took one bullet and clamped it into a vise to test the coating. She squeezed it to about 1/4" wide, explaining that if the paint stayed with the bullet without cracking or peeling, it would be fine in the barrel.

After this instruction, I attempted some bullets of my own. The first thing I found was the thinner dried before I could get an even coat on them. I discovered lacquer thinner could be added as needed, changing the viscosity. I learned why Juliet placed them upright. They lose their concentricity if the paint cooks while lying on the side.

END OF REPORT

As you can see, Uncle Kai, the bullet-making style is unique and efficient. Looking at the archives, the .40 S&W went "out of favor" when users decided there was no advantage of the .40 over the 9mm. However, the .40 delivers 160- to 180-grain bullets at 800-1,100 fps velocities.

When I went to look through the archives for loads using the 175-grain bullet, there was little information. However, my painted bullets averaged 177.6 grains. It was close to the weight and design of plated 180-grain bullets. I experimented with lighter loads from published recipes for those and found velocities to be similar.

Uncle Kai, I do miss you and Aunt Dass. I am up for promotion soon, so you'll have to come here when you can. Spring crops are planted, and we will be shipping our early spring yield at the end of March. As usual, I'll be up on 7.175 MHz on the same schedule. I'm looking forward to our chats.

Nat



SPC Juliet demonstrated a different method of powder coating the 180-grain Lee bullet using a slurry of powder coat paint and lacquer thinner.



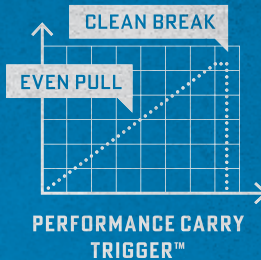
Applying the Eastwood Powder Mirror Blue, SPC Juliet shook a contrasting Harbor Freight White over the bullet noses, making them look like snow-capped mountains.



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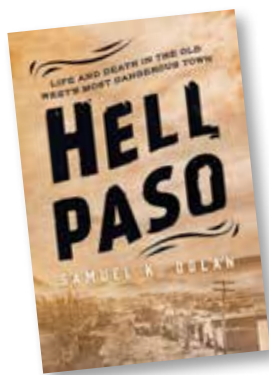
WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE™

PREPARING FOR THE WORST ... AFTERMATH

Police use of force is under more scrutiny than ever today, much of it unjustified. Whether cop or armed citizen, be prepared to defend yourself in changing times.

People trying to send cops to prison for justified use of deadly force in the line of duty is nothing new. In his book *Hell Paso: Life and Death in the Old West's Most Dangerous Town*, historian Samuel K. Dolan wrote, "Thanks in large part to Hollywood's depiction of frontier gunplay, many have the impression that justice in the Old West was swift and that lawmen meted it out with a .45 and faced little scrutiny for their actions. In truth, when western peace officers exercised deadly force, they answered for it. Following a shootout, there would be an inquest or preliminary hearing, during which eyewitnesses would testify. The case would then go to a grand jury, and more often than not, the officer would be indicted." (1)

Today in America, things seem to be trending back in that direction — for law enforcement officers and law-abiding armed citizens.



Hell Paso: This book shows indicting cops for justified shootings is nothing new in American history.

BAD PR

Are there bad cops who do bad things? Of course. There are an estimated 800,000 law enforcement officers in America, and in any community that size, some will go bad. That's why LE agencies have Internal Affairs, Professional Standards or Office of Professional Responsibility units. It's my impression those units work harder to prosecute bad cops than Bar Association Ethics Committees work to disbar bad lawyers among some of America's more than a million attorneys. But I digress.

In the last decade, we have seen a sea change in the old tradition of lawyers

and cops alike, "We don't try our cases in the press; it will all come out in court." The change largely stems from an armed citizen shooting — the death of Trayvon Martin at the hands of George Zimmerman a decade ago. The family of the deceased only knew their unarmed teen son had been shot. They hired an attorney, Benjamin Crump, who brought in PR man Ryan Julison to create the public image of an innocent child skipping down the street with a box of Skittles when he was gunned down by a white, oops, "white Hispanic" racist. The jury saw the evidence-supported truth of

SOLUTIONS

When accusers cry "Police (or Armed Citizen) Brutality!" and the attorneys for the accused say nothing, their clients are being tried in the *Court of Public Opinion* with no defense at all. Silence in the face of accusation is seen as an admission of guilt. LAPD and the Las Vegas Metro Police led the way into the new paradigm. As soon as there is a potentially controversial shooting, they immediately do a press conference complete with dashcam and bodycam footage and tell the communities they serve, "Here is what we know happened so far; the investigation continues." And in

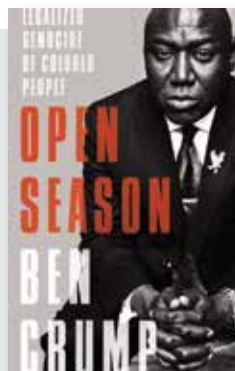


Yolo: Mas, third from left, at the death scene with the three involved officers mentioned in the article.

A GOOD SHOOT?

Within the last decade, I did a case in California where a young gang-banger tried to disembowel a police sergeant in the presence of two other officers; the sergeant and one of the other cops opened fire, killing him. The decedent happened to be Hispanic, and Hispanic civil rights groups demanded the cops be pilloried. The officer who fired the fatal shot was Hispanic himself, as was the third officer who wasn't close enough to engage the would-be cop-killer. The sergeant the decedent tried to gut with his tactical folding knife was mixed-race, and they all worked for a Hispanic sheriff.

An investigation by the Sheriff's Department and the State Attorney General's Office determined the shooting was justified. That wasn't enough to prevent a lawsuit in Federal Court for Wrongful Death. I was happy to testify on behalf of the officers, and I believe justice was served when the jury found in favor of the lawmen. (2)



Crump: Some people believe the "legalized genocide" trope, which is not borne out by facts or statistics.

a duly appointed Community Watch leader attacked and being beaten to death when he fired a single fatal shot and acquitted Zimmerman. But today, even many gun people remain brainwashed by the media and believe Zimmerman got away with murder. The same Crump/Julison team went on to attack many, many cops with the same propaganda strategy. Crump's book *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People* remains on bookshelves.

those communities, shootings there have triggered no riots. I respectfully submit all police departments (and defense attorneys for armed citizens) need to do the same.

Justice and truth are inseparable. But a truth not put before the Courts, including the Court of Public Opinion, will be unknown and unrecognized ... and justice will be ill-served with innocent lives ruined.



(1) Dolan, Samuel K., *Hell Paso: Life and Death in the West's Most Dangerous Town*, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing, 2021, Page 217. (2) <https://www.davisenterprise.com/news/local/crime-fire-courts/jury-backs-yolo-deputies-in-wrongful-death-trial/>

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HAUNTED GUNS

Sometimes I just like to sit quietly and imagine what it must have felt like there at the end. I'm not a particularly superstitious guy. However, there is something supernatural about these guns.

I own two whose stories I can verify. A man died with the first by his side. Another man used the other to kill two soldiers, not altogether unlike himself in the fetid trenches of WWI. Both weapons are, therefore, truly sacred.

We humans venerate things — the Smithsonian is dirty with such stuff. I've seen the top hat President Lincoln wore to Ford's Theater the night he was killed alongside John Deere's first manual plow. The original C3PO costume from *Star Wars* is quite cool, as are the red slippers from *The Wizard of Oz*. Some stuff, however, embodies a much deeper significance.

There's a slight depression in the woods at the Chickamauga National Battlefield that looks like a pig wallow. It's just a low spot that tends to collect brackish rainwater and stay muddy. In

September of 1863, however, wounded soldiers wearing both blue and gray congregated there together, trying to slake an insatiable thirst. Young men bled out in this hallowed space intermingled with their enemies, all meeting God together on equal terms. You cannot stand there and appreciate this story without being moved. So it is with these holy guns.

Leyte

On December 6, 1944, one of 409 elite Japanese paratroopers leapt out of his Ki-57 transport plane above an American-held airfield on the Philippine island of Leyte. Young men fight for various reasons, many of them, in retrospect, silly. This one was not. This young man was about to die protecting his home and his family.

He jumped from 700 feet. He would spend maybe 45 seconds under canopy. During that time, a young U.S. Army aviation mechanic grabbed his M1 rifle and raced out of his tent to see dozens of Japanese parachutes descending all around him. He picked one at random, drew a careful bead on the dark form hanging underneath it and squeezed off a round. The Japanese paratrooper stiffened and then was still.

The mechanic said later the Japanese soldier was dead when he hit the ground. The American soldier came home with the Japanese paratrooper's machinegun along with a package of Japanese cigarettes and a couple of letters he retrieved from the dead man's combat jacket.

The gun is unfired, not even in training. There isn't a smudge of

carbon on it anywhere. That he would jump into a combat zone with a weapon he had never tested seems nonsensical to me. Additionally, all the serial numbers match except the magazine well cover, offset by a single digit. I'll never know the details.

Service In Hell

The young Italian soldier served on the Allies' side during WWI. That Italy was part of the Axis in the subsequent hemoclysm is more a function of their megalomaniacal leadership than any real national interests. In the First World War, this naive Italian soldier, like countless others on both sides, just wanted to live long enough to go home. To do that, however, he had to kill.

This man used this M1891 Carcano bolt-action rifle to kill two Austro-Hungarian soldiers that he knew of. Once the war finally ended, he brought the weapon home with him. During his long years at war, he'd grown comfortable in the company of the implements of violence.

The post-war Italian economy was in shambles, and this newlywed had no prospects. He found passage across the Atlantic in steerage aboard a steamship. When he processed through Ellis Island in New York City, he carried a knapsack with some socks and underwear, the M1891 and 48 rounds of GI-issue ammunition. It was a different time and American authorities just waved him through, combat weapon and all.

Like the patriarch Jacob of Biblical lore, this man worked for years to earn enough to retrieve his family. Along the way, he learned English and came to cherish being an American. He subsequently sired a thriving brood of young Americans, all rabid patriots.

Guns are more than just walnut and steel. They are also repositories of the spirits who touched them during the most remarkable times. In a manner of speaking, I suppose that does make them haunted.



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This unusual Type 99 machinegun accompanied a young Japanese paratrooper to his death in 1944. Thanks to WorldWarSupply.com for the cool support gear.



These old WWI-vintage round-nose Carcano bullets fomented some simply ghastly damage downrange.

A terrified young Italian grunt used this 1891 Carcano rifle to kill at least two enemy soldiers in combat.



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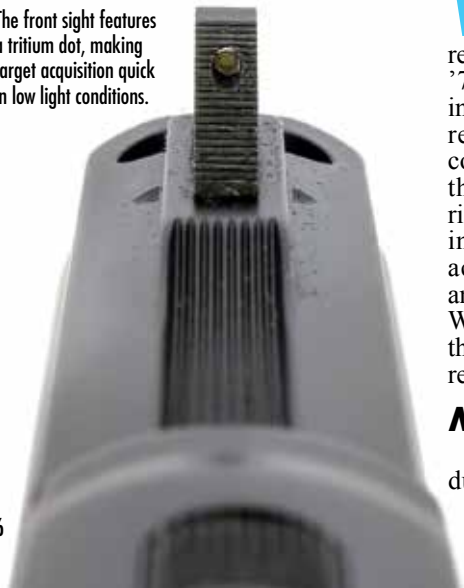
MARK HAMPTON

Before making sight adjustments, the first groups shot were more than acceptable from 10 and 15 yards.



LONG LIVE THE K-FRAME!

The front sight features a tritium dot, making target acquisition quick in low light conditions.



While the S&W K-Frame Model 19 first made its debut back in the late 1950s, my appreciation for this fine revolver found its beginning in the early '70s. Studying for a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, I frequently shot the revolver during my college years. Of course, that was a period in time when the law enforcement community carried revolvers for duty work. I had every intention of preparing for the police academy regarding firearms training and the Model 19 helped pave the way. While running a pile of ammo through the Model 19, I noticed it was always a reliable handgun.

Modern Take On A Classic

Today, Smith & Wesson has introduced a newer version of this classic



The Carry Comp comes with a beautiful set of wood grips.

revolver from their Performance Shop — the Model 19 Carry Comp. Considering my affection for the sixgun from years ago, I couldn't wait to get my hands on one. When the hard plastic gun case

Mark tested a variety of .38 Special and .357 Mag. ammo through Model 19.



arrived from S&W, inside was a blued, 3" Model 19. The six-shot revolver tipped the scales at 34.2 oz. There is a 2.5" version available, but I elected the slightly longer model. The Model 19 Carry Comp wore a beautiful set of custom wood grips, finely checkered with subtle finger grooves. In addition to the eye-pleasing wood grips, a utilitarian-type rubberized grip was also included.

The front sight consists of a Trijicon Tritium night sight that is most welcome in poor lighting conditions. The proverbial black square notch of the rear sight is fully adjustable. Target acquisition is quick and effortless with this sighting system, while the tritium sight reveals itself nicely in dim light.

Modifications

One can expect several welcome modifications from the Performance Center, including a tuned action. According to my Lyman digital trigger gauge, the test gun had a single-action trigger pull a little over 4.5 lbs. This custom version features a trigger stop. The double-action pull was clean and smooth, breaking at 11 lbs. Another feature I found most practical was the rounded and knurled hammer. The revolver was easy to draw from the holster and the checked hammer made for positive cocking.

Located directly in front of the sight is the vented Power Port that enhances recoil management. This wide vented slot helps tame recoil from

those heavy .357 Magnum rounds and does not appear obnoxious.

Modern Applications

The K-Frame wheelgun may not be utilized in the law enforcement community today, but this doesn't mean the revolver doesn't have a useful purpose for civilians. My wife is already making noise about keeping this handgun for home protection. We both went to the range with a variety of .38 Special and .357 Mag. ammo. At first, we shot the Carry Comp with the wooden grips. They felt very comfortable, but my little pinky

finger could not fit on the grip. That's not necessarily a bad thing. The grip is relatively short and compact, making it more compatible with EDC. I just couldn't leave well enough alone, so we switched grips to the synthetic boot grip. While lacking in aesthetics, the rubberized grips were extremely comfortable and allowed my little finger to wrap around completely. The grips feature subtle finger grooves and are lightly textured.

Karen and I engaged targets from 10 to 15 yards. She leaned toward Hornady's Critical Defense Lite, 90-grain FTX .38 Special load. I ran through several different brands of .357 Magnum, including Federal's Fusion 158-grain Bonded Soft Point, Hornady's 158-grain XTP and HSM 158-grain Sierra JHC.



Single-action groups were consistent with a variety of ammo tested.

S&W Model 19 Carry Comp makes for an ideal personal protection revolver at home or EDC.



The vented ported barrel effectively reduces muzzle jump and those .38 Special rounds are most pleasant. Groups with all brands of ammo were more than acceptable.

Still Relevant!

In today's world, black, plastic, high-capacity semi-autos have saturated the shooting world for personal and home protection. So why would anyone want

to carry a revolver? Well, for one, I like revolvers — and that may be just good enough without further justification. But wait, there's more. All through the years, I've shot a shipload of rounds through the Model 19; not once have I encountered a jam or problem of any kind. The capability to launch six rounds of .357 Magnum ammo without concern of a jam or other mishap gives me peace of mind. The Model 19 Carry

Comp makes a solid choice for home or personal defense. Karen already has plans of keeping this revolver on her nightstand, along with a set of electronic earmuffs.

My EDC varies on the time of year — and weather. In the cooler months, I usually wear a vest or coat and pack the Model 19 in a Sourdough Pancake, a high-ride leather concealment holster from Simply Rugged. This well-

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The Performance Center Model 19 Carry Comp features a trigger stop.


Located directly in front of the sight, the vented ported barrel helps reduce muzzle rise.



designed holster is a good option; it can be worn on the strong side or crossdraw with a 45-degree cant. This holster completely encompasses the revolver with the trigger covered and does not require a thumb snap for retention.

Karen and I were hiking around our rural farm grounds the other day, and I packed the Model 19 Carry Comp all over the property in the Sourdough holster. The Carry Comp was an ideal companion for such outings. I sure wasn't

expecting trouble, but nevertheless, the Model 19 made for a comforting hike.

Originally referred to as the Combat Magnum, the Model 19 made its appearance in 1957 and was widely accepted by the law enforcement fraternity and sportsmen alike. It was a great revolver back then and remains so today. For me, the Carry Comp checks more than one box. It's a fine revolver, dependable and reliable. At the end of the day,  that's all I ask.



RL 1100

The Choice of Professional Shooters

Made in the USA!

- Eccentric Roller Bearing Drive
- Smoother Operation, Less Effort
- Heavier Frame for Greater Rigidity
- Upgraded Primer Pocket Swager
- User-Replaceable Swage Rod Tip
- Reinforced Toolhead Bolt & Washer
- Improved Shellplate Indexing System
- Loads up to .308 Winchester
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- **RISK FREE 30-Day Trial!**



dillonprecision.com

STANDARD MFG.'S



DAMASCUS



JEREMY D. CLOUGH

1911 RUNNING A LOOKER THROUGH THE GUNSITE ACADEMY GAUNTLET

Shooting a pretty pistol is like taking the Mona Lisa out on a date to see what that smile is all about. And make no mistake, Standard Mfg.'s Damascus 1911 is a very pretty pistol. The controls are nitre blued, in a nod back to the earliest 1911s, while both the slide and frame are made of finely grained Damascus steel, a callback to even more ancient craftsmanship. The effect is striking, with the pistol looking grey from a distance until you're close enough to see the tight whorls and fine veins of silver and charcoal, with the sapphire of the controls adding a dramatic contrast.

The first question with a firearm at this price point — it runs a cool \$6,000 — is what you're paying for, and that varies. With an engraved pistol from the Colt Custom Shop, you're paying for the eye and experience of the man who takes a chisel and hammer to the gun and coaxes inexpressible beauty from otherwise ordinary steel. With a Turnbull gun, you're buying careful, historically correct bluing and surface

preparation, which can take a skilled artisan a week to do by hand. A Cabot pistol is priced based on the stunning precision with which each part is willed into being, and a Pete Single gun is the result of meticulous individual welding, machining and blue-printing that rivals a race engine. On the Standard, you're purchasing the rare material and the beauty.

Layers Of Beauty

Damascus steel was created before the advent of modern metallurgy to combine metal that was tough but unable to hold an edge with a different metal capable of maintaining a fine cutting surface but at the cost of brittleness.

Imagine heating them yellow hot, pounding them together, then folding them and doing it, again and again, resulting in a blade composed of many thin layers of mixed steel stronger and sharper than each material would be by itself. Steel alloys have developed beyond the need for this process, but the beauty of Damascus, which is acid etched to show off the grain and the evident skill required to forge it well, keep it in

demand as a custom knife material.

Precious few handguns, however, have been made from Damascus, and for good reason. It's very expensive, and the traditional forging method, while more than adequate for a blade, may not have the homogeneity and strength to withstand the sort of thousand natural shocks all pistols are heir to. This has been overcome by using Damasteel and newer forging techniques capable of producing something safely usable on a gun, such as the chain-pattern 4140 forging used on this one.

A Precise Bluing Process

Nitre bluing, also known as fire bluing, is, strictly speaking, also no longer necessary for performance purposes. Like color case hardening, the brilliant blue was originally an artifact of the heat treating/bluing process rather than the end goal. Now appreciated for its aesthetics, getting the deep blue color requires carefully submerging the part in several-hundred-degree bluing solution until the steel goes from yellow to the desired shade of blue, something which can happen very suddenly.



1911 A1
45 AUTO

STANDARD MANUFACTURING CO. LLC
NEW BRITAIN, CT. USA
GVT 001588

STANDARD MFG.
DAMASCUS
1911



AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER[®]

STANDARD MFG. DAMASCUS 1911



It's hard to reach the desired brilliant sapphire without overbluing; the time required varies from part to part and can be hard to predict, but they did it very well on the Standard pistol. Even the Novak sights have been polished and nitre blued, though I would have bead-blasted the rear-facing portions of the sight blade and rear notch for a crisper sight picture.

The nitred grip screws have been regulated, so their screw slots line up, pointing down the centerline of the grips. Though not common on handguns, regulated screws are a common custom feature on high-end long guns, such as the classic sporting shotguns made by Standard's sister company Connecticut Shotgun. While nitre blue is known as a finish that wears quickly, I did not notice any appreciable thinning during the short, but concentrated time I spent with the test gun.

Performance Criteria

All of this talk of value, of course, presupposes a certain level of function: If a gun doesn't work well, it's hard to like it (there's a parallel here to certain Italian cars, but I will pass lightly over it), and that standard varies depending on which class the gun is in.

Most service pistols are not as accurate as 1911s. Revolvers are often more accurate and good .22s can generally embarrass the lot. Based on my experience, I expect a 1911 to average 3" or better from a Ransom Rest with

everything I stuff in it. Most high-end 1911s shoot 2" or tighter and I've seen plenty that average in the 1" range. I also expect it to run all the time. Contrary to social media myths, the 1911 is quite reliable. Remember, it went 6,000 rounds without a malfunction prior to its adoption by the U.S. Army. Having established the tune with which beauty's beat must harmonize, on with the show.

DoubleTap ammunition provided 500 rounds of .45 ACP 200-grain match full metal jacket. I had the opportunity to burn it all through the Standard during a multi-day event at Gunsite, during which I never cleaned or oiled it. In deference to the gun's finish — it is, after all, somebody else's several-thousand-dollar gun — I did not work it in and out of a holster. In every other way, I rode it hard and sent it home sooty and shot from 10 yards to 200 (not a typo), fast, slow, offhand, left hand, etc.

For Special Occasions?

One thing at the outset: This does not appear to be intended as a carry pistol. Few people carry a gun at this price point and there are too many sharp edges, which is my most significant criticism of the test pistol I had. Were you to carry it, I think your clothing would find the corners soon enough, and I have a very expensive stack of torn Brooks Brothers shirts and suit jackets to inform that opinion. That said, however, the gun never scratched or cut me while shooting, and I ran it quite hard. This

included multiple modified iterations of the *El Presidente* drill, which requires six double taps on three targets with a mandatory reload. My best time was a respectable 10 seconds and change. While I am used to guns with aggressively textured frontstraps, the smooth frontstrap of the Standard pistol presented no control problems and gave a slightly larger canvas to show off the grain of the Damascus.

Rode Hard

I also ran through the Scrambler outdoor simulator with it, a multi-station course of fire with steel rifle targets ranging from 60 to just beyond 100 yards. For our event, several handgun targets were added in the 20-yard range. As per the rules, you get two tries at each target. I shot both the rifle and pistol targets, missing only one, and once the drill was completed, I finished with a pair of back-to-back offhand hits on a 100-yard Pepper Popper, shooting old-school bullseye style with one hand.

Have mercy; this thing will shoot and straight to the point of aim. The extended safety is can't-miss fast, recoil is soft with the wide beavertail, and that brilliant blue slotted hammer drops with the speed of intention. My best 25-yard group was a full mag I put into about 3½". More than once, I was able to call a particular bullet hole in the target and then cut it with a single shot at 10 yards, once tracking five consecutive rounds into a beautiful horizontal



slit. I struggled at 100 yards to find the holdoff until I realized it didn't need any. I did better after that, hence the two one-handed hits on the Scrambler.

Function

I mostly used the two 7-round Metalform magazines it came with, as well as Wilson 7-round Series 47 mags I happened to have with me. As expected, the gun never failed to feed. Starting around the 300-round mark, though, it would intermittently fail to go all the way into battery, needing a little thumb pressure to get the slide all the way forward.

The gun did not have excessively tight tolerances and could be easily


field stripped without a bushing wrench, which is the way I was taught to build a 1911. Oiling it likely would have helped, but I think a stronger recoil spring is in order, especially for those like me who go long periods without cleaning.

Trigger Time

And what a trigger. Dave Fink, the onsite gunsmith at Gunsite, was kind enough to measure the pull, and it broke cleanly and consistently at an average of 3 lbs., 7 oz. While the 1911 can mechanically be a very accurate pistol, the trigger is one of the most important mechanisms for delivering this accuracy in a human hand. It's one of the best

features of the design and they very much got it right on this one.

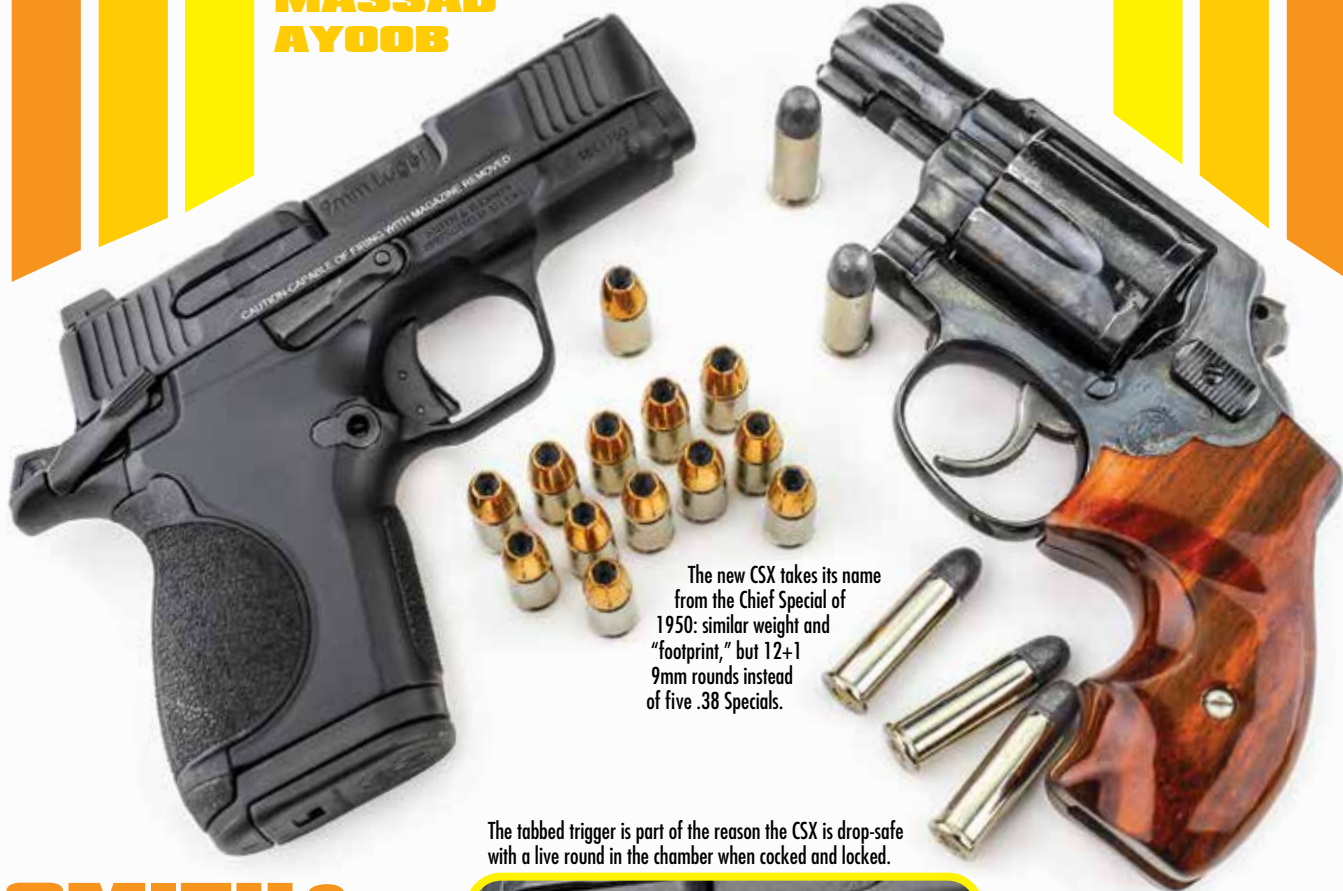
I tend to be critical when evaluating 1911s; it's the platform I've spent the most time with and inside of. There are things I'd change on the Standard gun, which I've already mentioned, including the walnut grip panels that appear to be laser checked. A gun of this caliber just deserves better. In the final analysis, though, this gun does exactly what it's supposed to do. It handles and shoots well and looks gorgeous in the process.

You may find a pistol that's a different kind of pretty, but you won't find one any prettier, nor are you likely to find another Damascus pistol in this price range. And don't be afraid to take her to the range. I think you'll like what you find  behind the smile.

Special thanks to Gunsite Academy and instructors Lew Gosnell and Aimee Grant. For more info: StdGun.com, DoubleTapAmmo.com, Gunsite.com

OLD SCHOOL MEETS NEW WAVE

MASSAD
AYOUB



The new CSX takes its name from the Chief Special of 1950: similar weight and "footprint," but 12+1 9mm rounds instead of five .38 Specials.

The tabbed trigger is part of the reason the CSX is drop-safe with a live round in the chamber when cocked and locked.

SMITH & WESSON CSX 9MM



As 2021 ticked into 2022, word leaked about S&W's new CSX pistol. As a higher capacity 9mm micro-compact, it rides the nouveau ballistic wave. The aluminum frame, hammer-fired and single-action cocked and locked design is decidedly old school. Didn't Colt do this with their

lightweight Commander of 1950?

This pistol competes directly with the Springfield EMP series and the Kimber Micro 9, but with a few more 9mm rounds on board: each CSX comes with one 10- and one 12-round magazine. S&W marketing manager Corey Boudreau tells me the name is an homage to the Chief Special of 1950,

which became the most popular concealed carry handgun of its time. It also shared the same 19.5-oz. unloaded weight as this new CSX.

I asked Corey for some background on the design work and he replied, "The lead engineer on this was Brett Curry, the engineer also responsible for the original M&P. Brett had been playing with this idea on his own before it officially kicked off into development, so the exact timing isn't entirely clear. But once green-lighted, the project took around a year and a half."

Initial Impressions

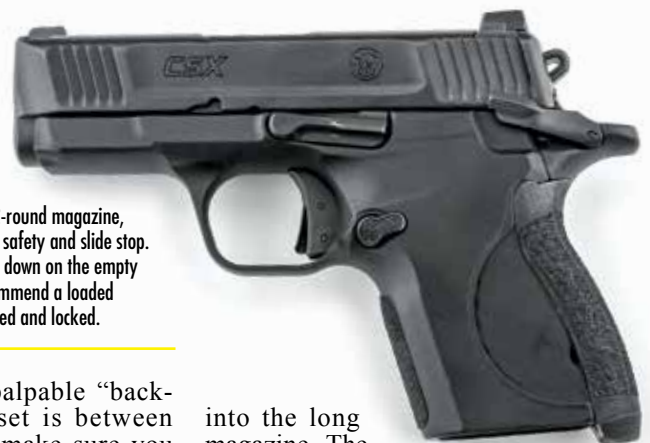
Low bore axis. Decent fixed three-dot sights. Southpaw-friendly, with ambidextrous slide stop and thumb safety, and a user-installable starboard



Accuracy was solid from the CSX. Here's the SIG V-Crown 124-grain JHP from 25 yards. Note the double at 12 o'clock.



Left: The S&W CSX with the 12-round magazine, cocked and locked. Note the ambi safety and slide stop. Right: The CSX with the hammer down on the empty chamber. S&W does not recommend a loaded chamber except when cocked and locked.



side magazine release button. Some adjustability to the hand, with an attachable shell giving more hand traction. The slide can be racked with the thumb levers “on safe,” providing one more little safety net. All good so far.

Owen Davis, a gun shop staffer and part-time member of my testing team, weighed the trigger pull on a Lyman digital gauge and found it averaging between 6 and 6½ lbs. Our test team ranged from 5'-tall females to 6'-plus males with proportional-sized hands. Without exception, everyone appreciated the CSX's short trigger reach. For small hands and short fingers, it's just right for the pad of the trigger finger. For average or larger hands, it takes the index finger naturally to the distal joint, the sweet spot DA revolver masters call “the power crease.”

The CSX's trigger take-up is very short before you hit the “wall” of firm resistance. After that, a short “roll” takes you to the shot with a

clean break with no palpable “backlash.” The trigger reset is between short and medium — make sure you bring your finger all the way forward. As the trigger reset, we found a tiny “tick” before a full reset — don't let this trick you. Let the CSX's trigger come all the way forward until it stops before you begin the next press. Since we lose sense of touch due to vasoconstriction in a fight-or-flight state anyway, that's what I've long recommended with any firearm.

If you've worked the thumb safety on a 1911, you'll find the CSX much the same. It is far more natural and ergonomic than the one on the uber-popular Shield. It is firm enough to avoid unintentional “off-safes” and easy to wipe into the “fire” position with either hand. My extremely arthritic right thumb required only a slight shifting of grasp to on-safe the CSX, and my unafflicted left hand required no shifting at all.

Interestingly enough, I could not get the 10th round into the short magazine without a magazine-filling tool. Still, it was easy enough to get all 12

into the long magazine. The full 12-rounder inserted easily and positively locked into place even with the slide forward.

Firing Line

Recoil is surprisingly mild, even for a 9mm, and not bad at all with 127-grain Winchester Ranger-T +P+. One thing that endeared this pistol to me was the recurve at the lower rear of the grip frame. This is subjective, but it locks solidly into the hollow of my palm, the same factor that in the G26/27/33 series of Baby GLOCKs allows me to shoot them as well as their full-size cousins until I get past 30 yards or so.

Comments from our test team were enlightening. John Strayer, Five-Gun Master in IDPA and winner of several state and regional championship titles: “I like this gun!”

Lt. Wayne Musgrove, a Sheriff's Department SWAT team leader and senior firearms instructor: “It feels as if I'm shooting a .380!”

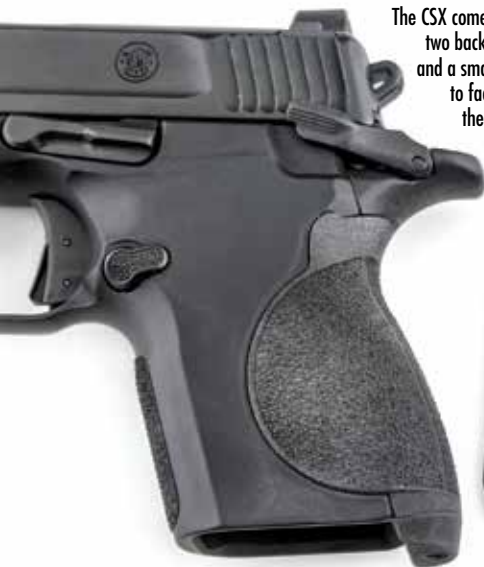
My wife, a shooting champion



Most autoloaders can't match this revolver benefit and will go out of battery when pressed against a target. A pleasant surprise indeed.



Note the trigger reach and recurve of backstrap locked into the hollow of Mas' palm. The 12-round mag allows a three-finger grasp with an average size male hand.



The CSX comes with two backstraps and a small tool to facilitate the swap.

jacketed truncated cone subsonic plunked five shots into 2.45" with the "best three" measurement cutting that by more than half at 1.20". The little 9mm was off to a good start. The 124-grain SIG V-Crown jacketed hollow point did slightly better overall: 2.35" for all five with the closest-together trio in 1.50".

At the 115-grain point, though, it looked first as if it was going to hell. From a production lot I've topped shooting contests with, Federal American Eagle full metal jacket blew out to 6.55" overall, albeit with 2.5" for the best three.

I tried this again with similar results. My first impression was this pistol simply didn't like 115 grain.

And I was wr-wr-wrong! A day later, I tried it with 115-grain SIG V-Crown JHP and was rewarded with a group that measured 2.55" for all five and the best three, 1.70". Sometimes we just have to be patient and try different loads to see which gets along best with the firearm in question. Discounting the one 115-grain load the CSX didn't like, the three bullet weights added up to an average of 2.45" overall five-shot groups at 25 yards. The "best three" measurements averaged 1.47". I consider this extraordinary 25-yard accuracy for a "pocket pistol."

Now, grouping is one standard of accuracy, but point of aim vis-à-vis point of impact is another, and sometimes more important, particularly on a fixed sight gun like this. The CSX came out of the box "shooting where it looked." If I held the sights center and pressed its trigger consistently, it knocked down 8" steel Bianchi Plates six for six from the 25-yard line. Points to S&W for attention to detail!

Perks & Quirks

A significant advantage with this pistol is that pressing straight in on

a contact target, it will discharge on command instead of going out of battery — a potential life-saver with a self-defense handgun and a cardinal revolver advantage. I'm surprised S&W doesn't advertise it as such.

For pocket carry, the sleek rear profile of the short slide with the hammer cocked and locked removes a snag point in a pocket draw that we usually see with striker-fired pistols of similar size. The ambi thumb safety has a positive detent, but I'd still like to see a pocket holster for it cut to hold that lever in the "safe" position. With such a combo, the CSX could replace a J-Frame revolver as my preferred pocket carry.

The CSX is more "shootable" than its size would indicate. It gave me an easy 100% score on a timed "PPC-speed" qualification. Reliability has been 100% with decent ammo. I observed one misfire attributed to water-soaked and corroded ammunition, which I can't hold against the pistol.

On the downside, those who "ride the link" when working the trigger may experience what feels like a "false reset." Boudreau explains the CSX "has a firing pin block in the slide, and if you ride the trigger forward through the reset cycle, you can feel the trigger bar sweep off the firing pin block just a slight tick before the full reset is achieved. I've found the issue seems to go away as the gun breaks in."

Overall, I liked this pistol enough to buy it and it may become a companion in 10-round states, for which I've ordered a couple extra of the short magazines. It may become a pocket gun for me with some more experimentation. The CSX may share a name with a railway, but it ain't gonna be a train wreck. At \$609 MSRP, I predict success for this neat little pistol.



For more info: Smith-Wesson.com

and Princess of Polymer Pistols who thinks anything with a hammer belongs in a museum instead of in a holster: "Yes. Yes!"

A man who must remain nameless, a firearms instructor for a school system that has armed its teachers: "We got them single-stack Shield 9mms initially because they wanted a manual safety. They are now asking for something with a higher capacity. They had trouble manipulating the safety on the Shields ... It makes sense as a replacement for the Shields when the time comes."

Accuracy

At 25 yards from a Caldwell Matrix rest on a concrete bench, I tested with the three most popular bullet weights for the caliber. Each five-shot group was measured overall, center-to-center again for the best three. The first measurement indicates what it can do in experienced hands under perfect conditions. In contrast, the second in my testing has closely approximated what the same gun and load is likely to do with all five from a machine rest.

Winchester USA brand 147-grain



FULL-SIZE GRIP

3.25" BARREL

COMPACT SLIDE

9MM LUGER 15+1

FULL-SIZE GRIP



ALL-NEW
G3x



COMPACT GRIP

4" BARREL

FULL-SIZE SLIDE

9MM LUGER 12+1

COMPACT GRIP



ALL-NEW
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VERSATILITY IS BUILT RIGHT IN.

Introducing the **Taurus® G3x** and **G3xl**—two all-new hybrid 9mm pistol configurations that strike the perfect balance of power and performance. The full-size grip on the **Taurus® G3x** ensures better purchase, control and retention—while its compact slide brings improved concealment and comfort to the everyday carry lifestyle. Offering a compact grip and no manual safety, the **Taurus® G3xl** boasts a full-size slide and 4-inch barrel that contribute to longer sight radius, higher velocity and improved accuracy. Both innovative hybrid pistols feature a refined 6-pound trigger that provides a crisp, clean break and short reset for quick, controlled follow-up shots. All backed by our Limited Lifetime Warranty and industry leading customer service.

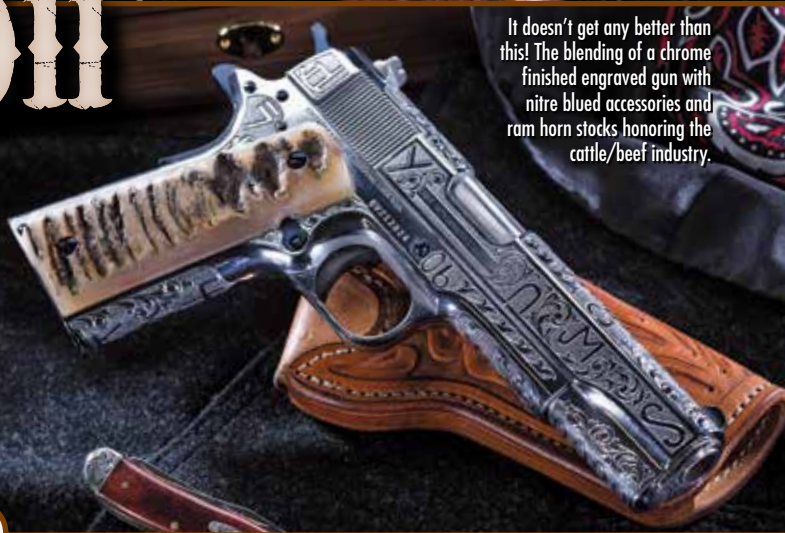
YOUR MARK, YOUR PROPERTY

JEFF "TANK" HOOVER
PHOTOS: MATTHEW PEAKE



The ram horn stocks accent the project exuding a rugged yet natural beauty to the gun.

TYLER GUN WORKS BRANDED 1911



It doesn't get any better than this! The blending of a chrome finished engraved gun with nitre blued accessories and ram horn stocks honoring the cattle/beef industry.



“**T**rust your neighbor ... but brand your cattle,” were words to live by during the days of the old west. Cattle rustling was a severe offense, and branding was one way of deterring it. Even today, free-range cattle are at risk, and branding helps

prevent it by identifying cattle with a registered mark.

Branding History

The practice of branding goes clear back to the Middle Ages when cattle were marked as belonging to specific owners throughout Europe. It was particularly prevalent in Spain, a country

famous for its blue-blooded bulls and free-grazing cattle. The practice was carried on by Spanish conquistadors when they crossed the Atlantic to the growing colonies of the New World.

Early vaqueros (cowboys) of New Spain, later called Mexico, continued the ancient Spanish tradition of fire-brands, marking cattle according to the



Traditional scroll work is used besides the famous brands of the King Ranch, 44 Ranch and JR Ranch.

owner. In Texas, Anglo and Tejano cultures were in constant contact, sometimes leading to conflict, over cattle ownership. American cowboys quickly adopted the practice as well.

Brands associated with different ranches became so numerous it was common practice for ranchers to carry reference books listing the registered brands. This made separating cattle easier during roundups while avoiding conflicts when shared grazing grounds were used among ranchers.

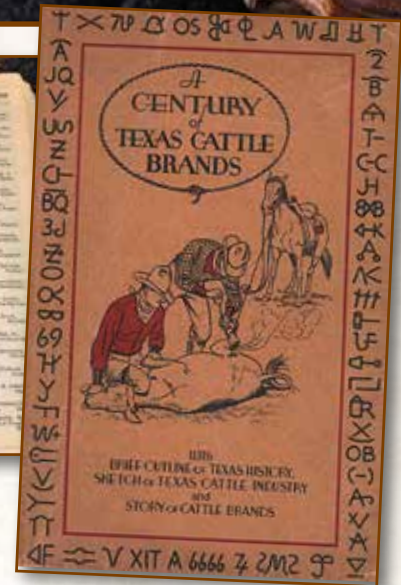
Today, brand registration and inspection are still written as law in many western states. It's obvious recognizing cattle brands have a long and continued history of practicality and tradition. Today, when someone says they have "many irons in the fire," meaning they're busy, it directly references numerous branding irons being heated for branding.

Cattle Brand Guns

Cattle brand guns reportedly originated during the 1930s by Texas engraver Cecil Coe "Cole" Agee. Cole also engraved more commonly seen scrollwork patterns, but it was his unique West Texas cattle brand engraving that drew the attention of lawmen, western movie stars and collectors. Due to their scarcity, they are highly desirable collectibles today. It's unknown how many cattle brand Colts Agee engraved — estimates go as low as 15 to as many as 50 — as he rarely signed his work. Cattle brands proudly portray a flavor of the Old West like no other.

A Revival

Following this long-standing but rarely seen tradition, Bobby Tyler of



Tyler Gun Works decided it was time to resurrect the time-honored custom of the Old West with a limited run of cattle brand Colt 1911s.

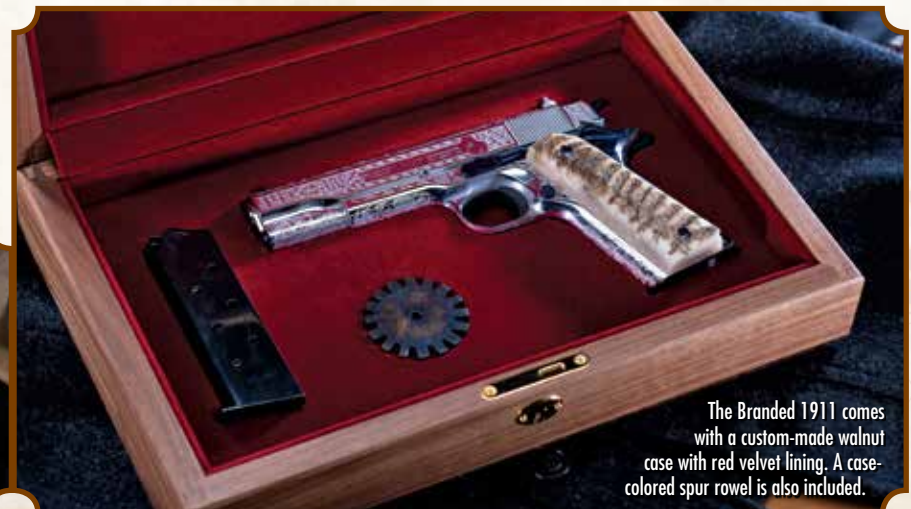
Bobby states, "It's the farmers and ranchers who feed the world. This project is an excellent way of paying respect to those paving the way. Beef production is a way of life. The cattle brand is more than a way of marking cattle; it represents a family and what they do! We looked at this project differently from other projects because of our respect and appreciation for cattle ranchers.

"We decided to take a serious yet artistic approach to this platform. Our biggest concern was to blend in

actual scroll and art, instead of just punching the background, making things look proportional."

There's A Difference

There are many different factors with Tyler's cattle brand project that makes it stand alone from previous cattle brand guns. First off, you can have your family brand added to the gun, building a family heirloom for future generations to appreciate in the process. There will only be 50 of these guns made. They can be built with the original design



The Branded 1911 comes with a custom-made walnut case with red velvet lining. A case-colored spur rowel is also included.



or a customer's brand. They come in a hand-fitted walnut case with a red interior. Also included is a case-colored spur rowel, with its own compartment in the case. The spur rowel represents the many miles of riding in the saddle, pushing cattle from field to market while sleeping under the stars.

The Gun

The gun chosen for the project is a Colt Series 70 1911. It will be hand engraved by Ricky Sharp. The complete gun will be hard chromed, making the finish as tough as the men who live the life of the brands. Screws, hammer, grip and thumb safety, slide lock, magazine release and accessories will be nitre blued, contrasting beautifully with the hard chrome finish.

Grips are ram horn. They add natural warmth and ruggedness, perfectly representing the hard lifestyle ranchers endure. Although challenging, these families feel privileged to be surrounded by nature's beauty every day.

Some of the famous brands included on the gun are the 6666, mentioned on the popular cable show *Yellowstone*. Yes, it is a real ranch with a long history. The King Ranch, the largest ranch in the U.S., YO Ranch, Rocking Chair Ranch, Diamond, Triple D, JM Ranch and Bar 7 are engraved on the gun. These ranches represent the history, hardships and honor ranchers and cat-

lemen face every day. Guns like this don't come around often.

Bobby and his crew have gone through every gun, inspecting them inside and out, smoothing out any rough spots, ensuring your gun is a quality piece, inside and out. Rest assured, you'll be impressed with the quality control and fluid motion/precision of your Branded 1911.

Ranger Tradition

When the 1911 became commercialized, it didn't take long for many of the Texas Rangers to adopt it as their primary sidearm. This is another tradition going hand in hand with Texas history. Now is the perfect opportunity to build or own a family heirloom appreciating the beef industry and an American way of life with a gun rooted deep in Texas tradition. Only 50 of these guns will be made. Some consecutive serial numbers will be available. The price is \$3,699.99.

Branded Hide


A Barranti-Myers holster is available through Barranti Leather, designed especially for this project and is the

latest edition of this line. The original holster history dates to pre-WWII days, listed as number 624 in vintage Myers catalogs. The 624 is basically a Threepersons model with a hammer shroud added. Doc was inspired by an old photograph of a Texas Ranger, Glenn Elliot wearing one and started researching it. The Barranti-Myers recreation is suitably called the Cattle Baron.

Holster options include plain, stamped, or floral carved, or you can have your own personal brand carved in the holster for this gun. Contact Barranti Leather for more details.

Let's Go Brandin'

So, whether you're a die-hard cowboy at heart, a hard-working rancher, or just love the Old West and history of the cattle business, brands, Texas Rangers and stylishly engraved, hard-chromed 1911s representing all the above, this is the gun for you!

A true Texas BBQ gun if there ever was one, especially when cradled in your Barranti-Myers Cattle Baron shuck. Imagine the envy in everyone's eyes as you say to yourself, "Yup, I got the coolest gun here, representing the cowboys and ranchers who weren't afraid of drowning in their own sweat, who built this country by feeding it, and I'm damn proud to own it!"  What else is there to say?

For more info: TylerGunWorks.com, BarrantiLeather.com

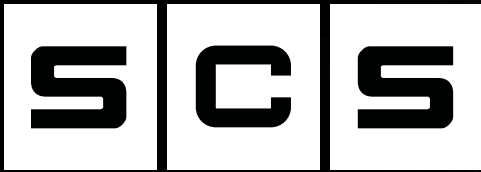


Here's the Branded 1911 in the Barranti Leather Cattle Baron shuck from the Barranti-Myers line.



Slide serrations are kept sharp even after being hard chromed.

INTRODUCING



SOLAR CHARGING SIGHT

HOLOSUN

FEATURES

- Multiple Reticle System (MRS):
2 MOA Dot Only, 32MOA Circle Only, 2 MOA Dot with 32 MOA Circle
- Self Adjusting Brightness Control
- Direct Mounts to Glock MOS™
- Titanium Housing
- Solar Rechargeable Internal Power Storage
- Window Size: 0.77 x 0.58
- Weight: 1.3 oz



BREAKING BARRIERS



Holosun's new SCS-MOS is a direct attachment optic for full-size Glock MOS™ systems offering the lowest profile deck height for use with standard height iron sights. The SCS-MOS combines solar power, rechargeable internal power storage, and an auto adjusting reticle brightness system to potentially operate indefinitely in multiple lighting conditions.



The hammer is a Commander-style rowel in place of the spur hammer found on some BHPs. Note the extended ambidextrous thumb safety.



The MC P35 comes equipped with the same dreaded magazine safety that keeps mags from dropping free on Browning/FN Hi-Powers, as evidenced by the small, peened pin on the top rear of the trigger.

A TURKISH



The Girsan MC P35 from EAA is a faithful copy of the classic Hi-Power 9mm service pistol, sharing its excellent reliability and ergonomics.

DELIGHT

JEREMY D. CLOUGH



Similar to the MkIII, front and rear sights present vertically oriented white rectangles in the sight picture.



As long as a Hi-Power has the magazine safety, your mags will either need one of these built-in springs, or you need to get good at stripping them out during your reload.



Left: The Girsan comes with the Devel-designed firing pin safety that appeared on MkIIIS Hi-Powers. It is the most seamlessly integrated such safety Jeremy has ever seen.



The Girsan is capable of excellent accuracy at closer ranges, including this one-hole 7-yard group fired standing unsupported. The sights hampered group shooting at 25 yards.

EAA'S GIRSAN MC P35 HI-POWER

We're well past the introduction stage for the Browning Hi-Power. John Moses Browning's last design, refined after his death by Dieudonné Saive and released in 1935, with its dual-column 13-round magazine, made it the first high-capacity 9mm service pistol. It fought on both sides of WWII after the Germans captured the *Fabrique Nationale* works and afterward in other theatres. FN's worldwide distribution made it a dominant source for military arms and the Hi-Power became the sidearm of choice for almost 100 militaries from Argentina to Zimbabwe, as well as elite units like the British SAS and the FBI's Hostage Response Team. And then, unexplainably, FN discontinued it in 2018. As one would expect, prices skyrocketed and you can now expect to spend four figures for one.

Hi-Power Resurrection

This created a market gap, into which stepped European American Armory. In business since 1990, EAA has long specialized in the importation of high-quality, reasonably priced firearms like the popular Tanfoglio CZ75 derivatives. EAA's newly introduced MC P35, manufactured in Turkey by Girsan, is a faithful reproduction of the proven Hi-Power design and retails for a shockingly reasonable \$528. Girsan is a well-known maker of Beretta 92 and 1911 clones and reportedly has several contracts with various international law enforcement and military units.

True To The Original

In profile, only the hammer and texture of the grip panels readily distinguish the Girsan from the MkII/III

Browning Hi-Power. Finished in black Cerakote with a chrome-plated barrel, the pistol is machined from 4140 bar stock steel. While production will transition in the future to machined forgings, there are no plans to incorporate castings into the gun's manufacture.

Sights are dovetail mounted, front and rear, with a fixed rear and a front ramp whose shallow angle seems to collect light more than simply having a dot on the back of a square Patridge sight. Like the MkIII sights, both front and rear present vertically oriented white rectangles in the sight picture, one on the front and two on the rear (one on either side of the notch). They are a faithful callback to the original Hi-Power, as is the rest of the gun. Only the rear frame contours appear to vary, and I only noticed this after I put on aftermarket grips. In the hand, I couldn't tell, even after nearly 20 years with the BHP.

The hammer is a Commander-style rowel in place of the spur hammer found on some BHPs, intended to reduce its tendency to bite the hand that feeds it. It's an improvement, but alas, the web of my hand was still nibbled upon during test firing.

Internals

Lockwork is consistent with the latest production Hi-Powers. It retains the frustrating magazine safety that was one of the required design specifications from the very beginning and the later firing pin safety of the MkIIIS. In addition to its intended function, the mag safety keeps magazines from dropping free; hence the mousetrap spring some later mags include that launch them up out of the gun when the mag release is pressed. It is, however, easy to remove, though I left it in for this article. On the other hand, the firing pin safety, initially

designed by Devel at the request of the FBI, is the most seamlessly integrated safety of its kind that I've seen and I'm glad they kept it.

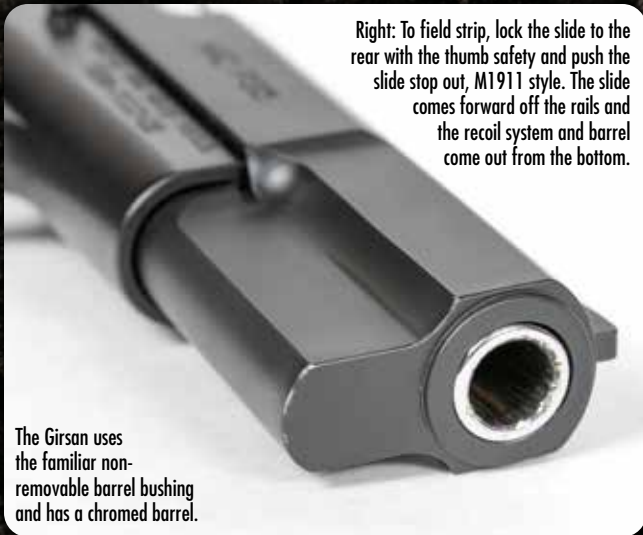
The trigger broke at an average of 8 lbs., 14.5 oz. on my Lyman digital trigger scale. In use, it felt lighter, but remember this is a service pistol, not a custom carry pistol. Yet. For more on this topic, refer to the upcoming *DIY GUNS* magazine, where you'll see what we can do to this pistol.

Grips are black plastic with a swoopy, ambidextrous thumb rest and the thumb safety is likewise ambidextrous with the right-side lever roll pinned onto the cross shaft. The Girsan comes with a single 15-round magazine made by Mec-Gar, the largest OEM magazine maker globally and whose magazines I use in my other Hi-Powers.

Hi-Power Shooting

Now, on to the range. Despite the ammo crisis, I stuck to my usual habit of firing 500 rounds (a few over, in this case) without cleaning or oiling the pistol. The majority of the ammo was supplied by Black Hills, including 124-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP), 115-grain JHP EXP and Honey-Badger in 100- and 125-grain weights. To round things out, I also fired 100+ rounds of ball in both 115- and 124-grain weights and a few rounds of Hornady 124-grain TAP and SIG SAUER 115-grain V-Crown JHP.

While the manual instructs users to use only standard pressure ammunition, I cheerfully voided the warranty by shooting around 120 rounds of my preferred 9mm load from Black Hills, a 124-grain +P JHP. While recoil was brisker than standard pressure, as expected, there were no visible signs of battering or excessive pressure or wear.



The Girsan uses the familiar non-removable barrel bushing and has a chromed barrel.

Right: To field strip, lock the slide to the rear with the thumb safety and push the slide stop out, M1911 style. The slide comes forward off the rails and the recoil system and barrel come out from the bottom.



However, your mileage may vary, and you do the same at your own risk.

Magazine Factors

To give it the broadest test possible, I shot the Girsan with Hi-Power mags in 10-, 13-, 15- and 20-round capacities. As the gun still had the magazine safety installed at the time of the test, the only mag that dropped free was the 10-rounder, which has the mousetrap spring on it. Others came out with downward pressure on the lip of the magazine baseplate, which I suppose tells us why it has a little extra nub there.

There were two malfunctions, both in the last few mags fired. One was a Black Hills HoneyBadger that did not ride up the feed ramp, stopping the slide with the cartridge still horizontal. The second was a nose-up failure to feed with an older 15-round magazine. While I attribute the first malfunction to the HoneyBadger's unusual bullet profile, the second was a magazine problem.

To be candid, I'm a little untrusting of added-capacity magazines in any platform, including both the single stack M1911 and the Hi-Power, which was originally designed to hold 13 rounds rather than the now-common 15. While I can't attribute any problems to the 15-rounder that came with the Girsan, I would watch any 15-round magazine with skepticism and replace it if I started noticing signs of trouble. Or just buy 13-rounders.

Sighting

The sights were at their best up close. At 7 yards, I shot a one-hole group with the Girsan, showing exceptional mechanical accuracy. However, I did struggle shooting groups at 25 yards, usually running around 6" when

Sights are dovetail mounted with a front ramp whose shallow angle collects light. Similar to the MkIII sights, it presents three vertically oriented white rectangles.



shooting standing. I was, however, able to put five rounds in about 3 1/8" when I shot from prone and rested my hands on my range bag. I believe this to have been a function of the sights: Any pistol that one-holes at seven should shoot proportionately well at 25, excluding human factors — in this case, the sights.

The white rectangles dominate the sight picture, especially when shooting at a black silhouette target, where the dark portion of the sight picture is lost, making precise alignment very difficult. Up close, in rapid-fire, it's an entirely different ball game. The white rectangle on the front sight tracks easily, bouncing up in recoil and slotting right back down into the rear notch for the next shot. Again, they're faithful replicas of the MkIII sights, but as I expect to keep this gun, they won't be on it for long.

Trigger Observations

While a bit heavy, I never noticed the trigger weight when firing it. This said, the Hi-Power trigger is its own beast and needs some explaining. It is not as crisp as an M1911 — no fighting gun is — which accounts for some of its century-plus staying power.

Rather than use a traditional disconnect, the Hi-Power trigger has a pivoting trigger lever held vertical by the same spring that causes the trigger to reset.

When the trigger is pulled, the tip of this lever pushes up under the front end of a sear lever mounted lengthwise in the slide, rotating the rear of the lever downwards against the frame-mounted sear, releasing the hammer. When the slide cycles, it pushes the trigger lever forward, out of engagement with the sear lever. When the trigger is released, the

trigger lever drops back down into place underneath the sear lever and is once again ready to fire.

It's a brilliant system, but the trigger's sole mechanical connection to the hammer is through the slide-mounted sear lever. With particularly loose slides, you can watch the slide twist on its rails as you press the trigger. This introduces a certain amount of creep into the system; it also creates some inconsistency in the trigger pull because every time the slide cycles, the trigger will reset a little differently, and those who are sensitive to reset may momentarily interpret this difference as the gun having jammed, although it has not. This is not a Girsan thing: it's an unavoidable Hi-Power characteristic inherent in the design, and I have seen it significantly worse on other Hi-Powers than on this test gun.

And really, that's the MC P35: Yes, it has the Hi-Power vices, but it has all of its virtues as well — which include solid reliability and some of the best ergonomics of any 9mm service pistol — at a very reasonable price. The Hi-Power has long had a reputation as a professional's pistol, and if you're interested in finding out why, you're not likely to have a better opportunity.



For more info: EACorp.com, Black-Hills.com

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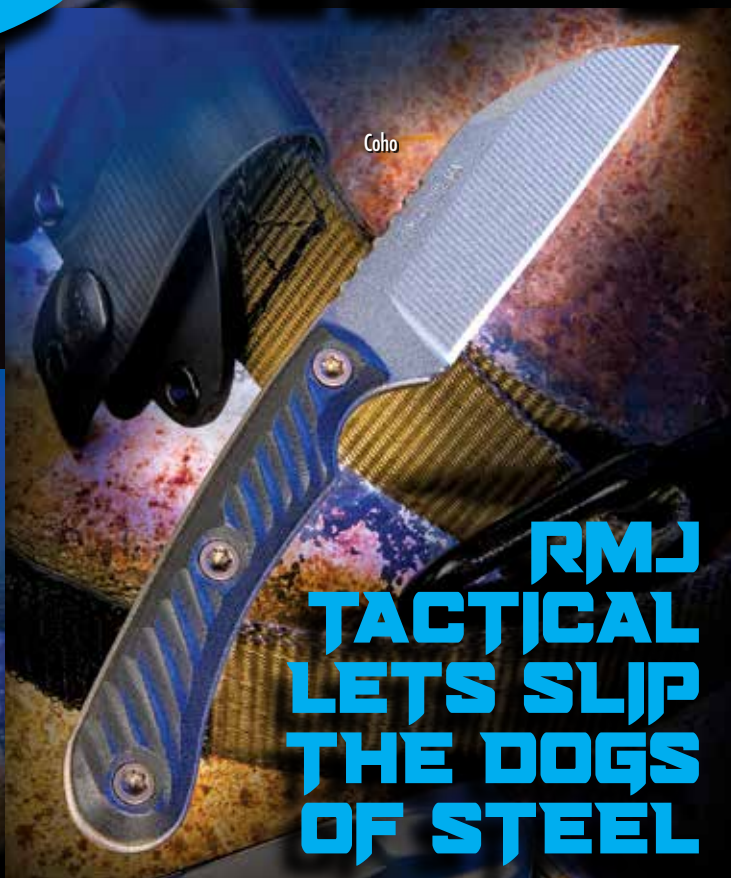


Dragonfly Blackout



Jackdaw

PAT COVERT
PHOTOS: ROB JONES
THE IMAGESMITH LLC



Coho

**RMJ
TACTICAL
LETS SLIP
THE DOGS
OF STEEL**

There's a reason RMJ Tactical has the word "tactical" in their name. Their designs and craftsmanship exemplify the art of war wherever it occurs, whether it be a takedown in a dusty town in the Middle East or the mean streets of New York City — RMJ knives are there to protect, defend and overtake. These are "grail knives" among many military, tactical and serious user communities. RMJ's founder, designer, part-owner and edged weapons historian Ryan Johnson is the guy who lets slip these beasts — each one with a mission in mind.

Based in Chattanooga since 2005, RMJ Tactical gained their reputation making the baddest tactical toma-

hawks in the business and grew from there. Johnson honed his knowledge of knives by becoming a forger of steel and added his concepts for tactical cutters and tools. His designs are crisp and acute, with no wasted curves or frills to waylay their charge.

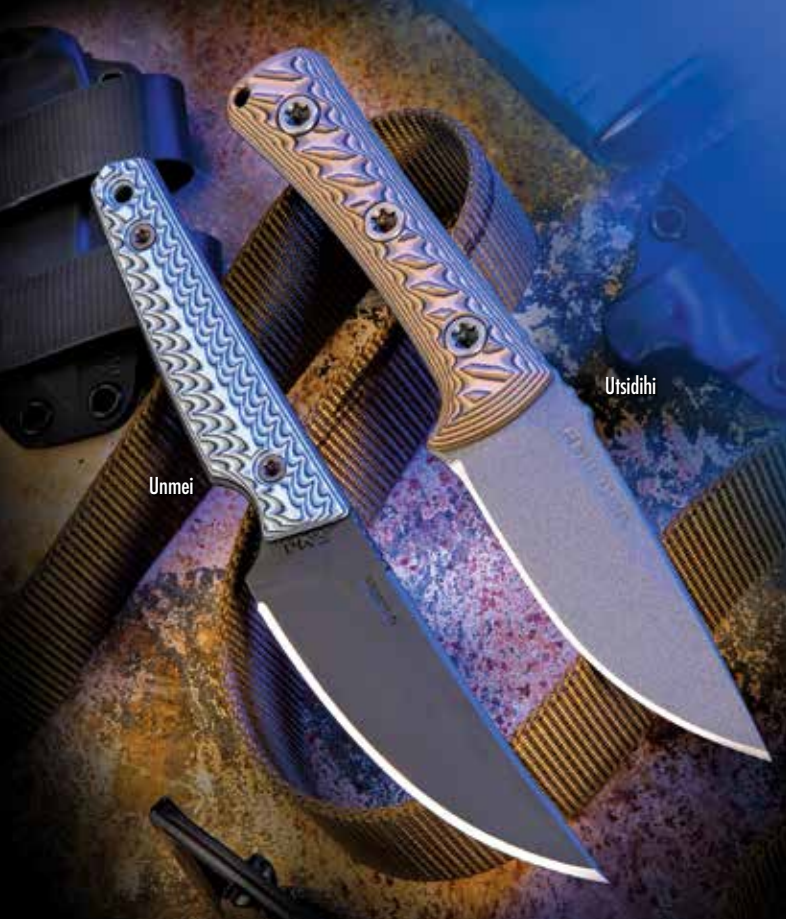
Form Follows Function

RMJ's Japanese-inspired Unmei exemplifies Johnson's purpose-driven design in a nutshell. An RMJ favorite, the Unmei — with its wicked 4.0" Persian blade — presents the combat knife in its unsullied, faultless form. The handle is 4.0" as well and flows off the backside of the blade in pure poetry. The forward grip has a deep finger choil and there's jimping on the backside of the

blade for added purchase. RMJ offers the Unmei in a wide range of handle options in both solid and layered G10. The Urban Gray layup is shown here.

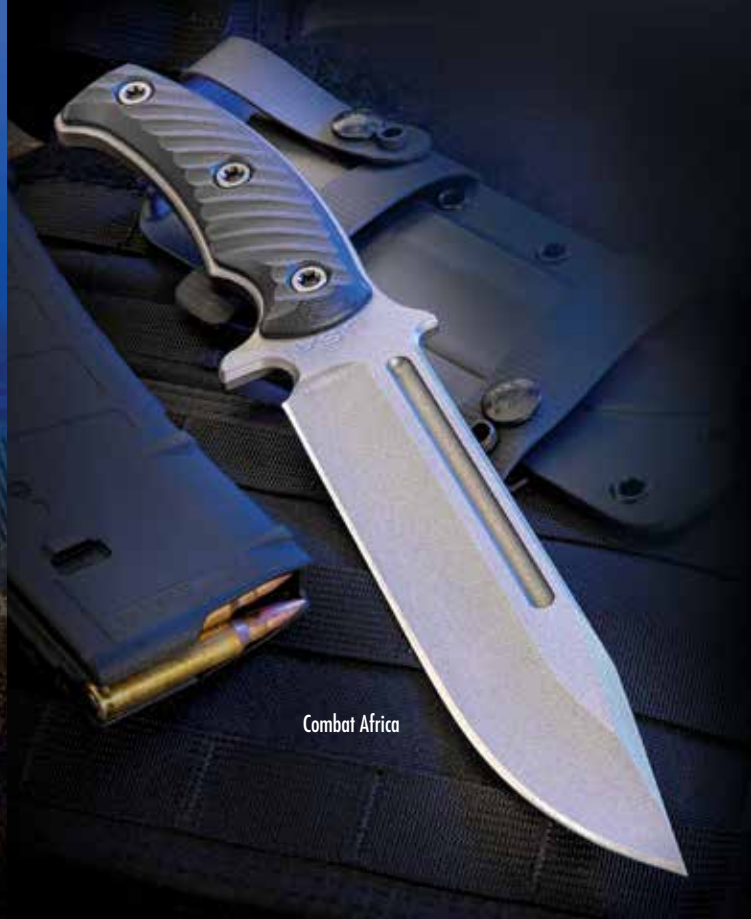
Upscale Nitro-V stainless steel does the slicing and dicing chores on the business end and you can have it coated or uncoated. The Unmei weighs in at a light 3.5 oz. sans sheath — and on this order, RMJ provides a MOLLE-compatible Kydex scabbard with two MAD straps for multiple carry options.

The Utsidihi (Cherokee for mankiller) was conceived as a mid-size field knife that can also serve as an EDC. At 7.75" overall with 3.5" of the total in a deep-bellied drop-point blade, it's the overwhelming favorite blade style for processing game. The



Unmei

Utsidihi



Combat Africa

Utsidihi's blade is Nitro V stainless with a tough Tungsten Cerakote finish, and there's light jimping on the rear thumb ramp for enhanced grip. The 4.25" handle is a simple, flared-based stick style with a guard at the top for finger protection and choking up on the blade. The scales are G10, which can be had in Black, Blaze Olive and the Hyena Brown version shown here. The company's favored Black Kydex sheath with dual straps comes delivered.

In addition to skinning, the Utsidihi is well suited for field chores like debarking and carving wood, cutting rope and paracord and preparing a fire-starter. As an EDC, this knife will be glad to provide protection (many tacticals employ a drop-point blade) and tackle tough daily duties such as cutting heavy packaging and whipping through oversized zip ties. The Utsidihi is a versatile performer.

The Coho is a compact fixer that excels at both self-defense and utility. Employing a 3.0" Wharncliffe-style blade of 52100 High Carbon Steel, the Coho has an ideal blade style for workhorse chores while also being valued by many users for combat duty. At 6.5" overall, this is a compact carry that packs a punch. The 3.5" handle is a bag style with a deep index finger groove for superb grip, further aided by a nice length of notching at the rear of the blade. Practically and tactically speaking, it would be hard for someone to dislodge the Coho from your hand without getting shredded.

Weighing in at a svelte 2.0 oz., the Coho is easy to conceal and is delivered with RMJ's dual-strap black Kydex sheath for multiple carry options. If you need a stealthy backup knife that will be glad to serve up lunch, the Coho will oblige. Handle options include Black (shown here), Dirty Olive and Hyena Brown.

At 6.625" overall, the Jackdaw is a compact cleaver with a 3.25" blade sporting styling cues of the Chinese Dao Sword. The blade is a slicer at heart and can split time performing utility chores and providing self-preservation. Utilizing RMJ's oft-favored Nitro V steel with a Tungsten Cerakote finish, the Jackdaw is a versatile cleaver that can handle field duties such as slicing rope, webbing, paracord and leather strapping, not to mention doing a little light meal prep.

The knife's 3.6" handle is very much like its Coho brethren and available in the same scale offerings — the Urban Gray is featured here. Here again, RMJ provides their black Kydex sheath with dual straps for multiple carry options.

Neo-Classics, Too

The cutlery historian in Johnson is readily apparent in the RMJ Combat Africa. A tribute to the fighting knives that helped win the wars of yesteryear, Johnson has designed a modern-day version well fit for carrying on the tradition today. The Combat Africa is 12.0" overall with a quarter-inch thick 7.0" Clip Point blade of 80CRV2 High

Carbon Steel and, to add to its character, features a Fuller groove parallel to the spine. A Tungsten Cerakote finish keeps the corrosion bugs away. This juggernaut's handle is 5.5" with a stylized guard topping a curvaceous grip and deep finger guard. The handle scales are 3D contoured, diagonally grooved G10.

RMJ equips the Combat Africa with a black Kydex sheath and MAD straps typical of all their sheaths. The rugged Combat Africa is built for extreme hard use in the wilderness or on the battlefield, your choice.

RMJ's Dragonfly Blackout is a modern version of the 19th-century push daggers used by politicians and gamblers who preferred an easily concealed edged weapon. Johnson's design is 4.75" of top-shelf CPM-S45VN stainless steel topped with a non-reflective Cobalt Cerakote finish. The Dragonfly Blackout's dagger blade is 2.375" of dastardly delight with two finger grips at its base. A black Kydex sheath with double straps, designed to accept popular clips and mounts like the Discreet Carry Concepts Clip and UltiClip, is included.

There's a lot more to be found at RMJ Tactical's website, including optional handmade leather sheaths for their knives, a host of tactical and wilderness tomahawks, tactical tools and swag. Shades are recommended; it can be an eye-popping experience.



For more info: RMJTactical.com



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SCAN TO ENTER



The *Stinger Monolith Commanche* with *Rolo Night Sights* boasts most of the same features as Les Baer's popular *Custom Carry* model, but with the shorter *Commanche* slide and barrel. It's chambered for the hard-hitting, high-velocity 10mm caliber and equipped with high visibility night sights. Other features include the Baer *Stinger Monolith Commanche* frame and slide with rear serrations (slide fitted to frame) and a blued finish, a 10mm barrel and *Commanche* stainless steel bushing, a Baer speed trigger with 4.5-lb. pull, tactical ambi safety, deluxe hammer and sear, beveled mag well, polished feed ramp and throated barrel, tuned and polished extractor, extended ejector, checkered slide stop, flat serrated mainspring housing, premium checkered grips and more. Chambered in powerful 10mm, this feature-rich pistol comes with two premium 10mm magazines and black recon grips. The *Stinger Monolith Commanche* — it can be yours — if we pick your name as winner in this giveaway.

Test your *Stinger Monolith Commanche* with *Ransom Rest's* custom *Multi Cal Steady Rest*. Made from Aerospace-grade 6061 Aluminum, this pistol rest is designed to provide stability for any handheld firearm. It's custom engraved with "American Handgunner," all the better to remind you, if you win, where you got these prizes.

A flashlight doesn't need to be round. Look at *Streamlight's Wedge*, one of the new crop of reliable rechargeable lights. At 5.46" long, just under an inch wide and 5/8" thick, the flat-shaped *Wedge* slides into the pocket easily. And it delivers a constant 300 lumens of light! Truly a useful, portable, EDC light.

A custom Les Baer *Stinger Monolith Commanche*, *Ransom Rest's* *Multi Cal Steady Rest* and a *Streamlight Wedge* flashlight are exciting prizes we're sure you'd want to own. So hurry! Make this possibility a reality by entering the giveaway at AmericanHandgunner.com/giveaways. You can also send a post card! —Jazz Jimenez

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GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin



ALL POLITICS IS GUN POLITICS

We're reaching the point where politics takes the trajectory we've endured in gun politics for decades. "Reality don't matter." Too often, our Constitution is not even an afterthought in legislative chambers. Facts and math have no meaning. Reasoned logical debate is fruitless. What the public wants can be ignored totally and with impunity by motivated "authorities." So-called "news" media has completely sold out, going along with — or worse — cheerleading for tyrannical, unconstitutional power grabs.

Leadership in America has proposed federalizing elections. The Constitution is explicit about elections: "The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof (Art. I, Sec. 4, Cl. 1)."

"Reality" TV?

If you're unaware, the administration has mocked up a room across the street that looks like the Oval Office. President Biden goes there to deliver carefully controlled teleprompter speeches. It's in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, displaying fake flowers through a faked window, mocked by those who found out (or attended!) as "the Truman Show White House," literally a game-show set. Antony Blinken (Sec. of State), Janet Yellen (Treasury Sec.) and U.N. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield have cooperated and used the set for official events. They're in on the deception and keep up the pretense. It's not so different from using a murder scene as a backdrop to deliver anti-gun-rights spiels.

So, our Founders put power to control elections in the hands of the states. When the president proposes a federal takeover, regardless of excuses for "fairness," new-fangled equity, or reparations for unspecified

past injuries, copywriters at the news conference, sometimes called reporters, don't grumble or ask questions. That's precisely what gun owners have faced with "shall not be infringed" since the 1960s. The government has been deciding to do what it wants, including infringements, let the rules be damned. What Constitution?

We gun-rights stalwarts raised these issues loud and clear, showing dramatic evidence of such tyrannical usurpation for all to see. Mass media covers it up, if they cover it at all, calling it overreach, a comfortable euphemism failing to convey the serious treachery of the proposals and acts.

Sleight Of Hand

Lying and fabrication have been the main tools in the anti-gun debate and have become standard tools for other government operations. We have been side-stepped with arguments about "ghost guns," misdirecting time, energy and political capital on an invented "problem." Shops haven't been robbed at ghost-gun point; few, if any, muggers use ghost guns. Smash-and-grab theft doesn't even use guns, but we're told we must control guns to control crime. We keep having to point out gun control is not crime control. We get it and they don't even listen. Like a magician misdirecting your gaze to pull off a sleight-of-hand, the right to build a gun for yourself at home disappears.


Lies in the general political arena have gotten so blatant that, despite seeing it with our own eyes — like countless immigrants illegally flooding across the border — we're told, to our faces, "The borders are closed." It's a lie, total bull pucky. We experienced equivalent balderdash early, with nonsense about "invisible guns" that could sneak past security checkpoints. That was as real as closed borders, with invisible invaders. It's similar to being told the riots would stop by outlawing retail ammo sales or the AR-15 during summer riots. Pay no attention to the anarchists and race-baiters running the riots, mur-

dering and burning what's nearby.

The one that got me most perhaps was saying a trillion-dollar spending bill would cost nothing. There's barely a parallel to the gun quicksand. The Brady Bill, when it passed, included a quarter-billion-dollar price tag to build the national background check computer (NICS) for the FBI. At least the price tag showed in the bill itself — along with the known-to-be-false promise it would control criminals. Criminals remain armed to their hearts' content, though NICS does encumber sales to the innocent public.

Liars Figure

Numbers and statistics have been a source of misinformation and manipulation from long before guns became controversial — in the mid-1960s, by the way. Before that, they were just part of life. Watch some olden film *noir* for that sense. Lately, the most significant statistical lies have been "Inflation is merely transitory and at 4%." When gas and many of the groceries you buy cost double, that's hard to swallow. Remember when you were told guns are many times more likely to hurt you than defend you? Disproven beyond doubt — by hard facts — the number got mystically lowered to just 2.7 times more likely. *Politics and gun politics are merging in abandoning truth.*

"Our exit from Afghanistan was a complete success." If you count leaving our people behind against their wishes, along with a billion dollars of our most advanced weaponry, a success, then sure. About as successful as waiting to see if waiting periods stop crime or make abusers pause. 

Award-winning author Alan Korwin has written 14 books, 10 of them on gun law, and has advocated for gun rights for nearly three decades. See his work or reach him at GunLaws.com.

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Colt's Rail Model .45.



John's Fearsome Foursome of Future Favorites — modern production .45 Colt 1911s.

THE 1911 .45 ACP

During the mid-'50s, I also added to my collection both a 1911 Government Model and an S&W 1917, both relics of WWI and both chambered in .45 ACP. In those years, I often read how difficult the 1911 Government Model was to shoot. A shooter's handgun choice is highly subjective and the Colt Single Action always has been and probably always will be my favorite, followed closely by an S&W such as the 4" 1950 Target .44 Special. Right behind these two categories comes the 1911. With that in mind, I'd like to discuss my all-time favorite 1911s.

After the first World War, Americans began to discover the 1911. One

of the first groups to adopt it, unofficially, were members of the Texas Rangers. I well remember seeing pictures more than 50 years ago of Rangers like Clint Peoples and Bob Crowder armed with a pair of fully engraved, ivory-stocked .45 Colt 1911s carried in floral carved holsters.

1911 Evolutions

The original 1911, just as my 1914 Commercial version, had tiny sights (at least for my eyes), a hammer that would quite often bite the area of the back of the hand between the thumb and forefinger and a flat mainspring housing. In 1923, the 1911 became the 1911A1 with two minor changes. One of the complaints of the 1911 was that it tended to shoot low. The flat mainspring housing was given an arch that moved the hand back slightly to bring the pistol up naturally. To compensate for this, the long trigger was shortened. Over the years, better sights arrived and



Targets shot with the Clark Custom Combat Commander .45.

the tang on the grip safety was lengthened to help alleviate hammer bite. Today this problem is mainly solved by a beavertail grip safety with a rounded spur hammer. One other change often seen is an extended thumb safety. All of the changes are minor and do nothing to affect the basic design of the .45. It is interesting to see the return of the flat mainspring housing. Sometimes progress corrects itself.

Commander

The U.S. Military used the 1911 through two world wars, and then in 1947, the Army began looking at the possibility of adopting a smaller, lighter .45 ACP pistol. Colt engineers came up with an alloy framed .45 weighing one-third less than the 1911 and having a barrel length of 4¼" compared to the original 5" length of the 1911. The Army never did adopt such a pistol; however, in late 1949, Colt

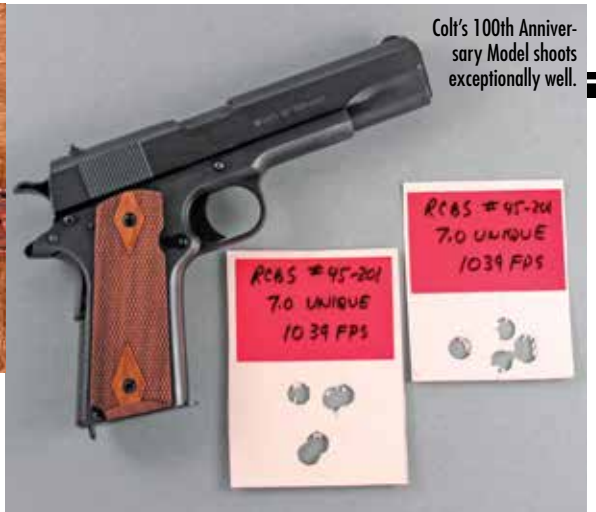


Two current production Colt .45 ACPs; the Rail Model and the Series 70; leather by Bob Mermickel.

Anyone for a Texas Bar-B-Q? The perfect rig is this Series 70 — engraved and ivory stocked — and El Paso Saddlery leather.



Colt's 100th Anniversary Model shoots exceptionally well.



offered a commercial version of what is now known as the Commander. With its lighter weight of 26 oz., the Commander is much easier to carry all day than the 39-oz. all-steel version. However, the trade-off is its more significant felt recoil, so in 1970 an all-steel version was offered as the Combat Commander.

polish the feed ramp and added full checkered grip panels by Herrett's.

Early Customs

A few decades back, I was granted the privilege of testing some of the custom semi-automatics by Jimmy Clark. Jimmy was one of the early pioneers in tuning, tightening, polishing, accurizing and perfecting the 1911. One of those guns he sent to me was a Colt Combat Commander he had made up for a customer. From a Ransom Rest, this Colt .45 was right at 1" at 50 yards, yet the customer refused it. I didn't. I told Jimmy there was no way he was going to get it back, and he was such a gentleman he sold it to me for cost and

said I could make payments. You can bet it is one of my favored Colt .45s.

Two Days' Pay

My experience with the 1911 began with a Remington-Rand surplus .45 purchased in the mid-1950s for two days' pay when I was making 90 cents an hour. That old Remington loaded with war surplus hardball traveled with the family as we relocated from Ohio to Idaho. Sadly, something else beckoned, and I let it get away. However, I replaced it with my first Lightweight Commander .45 ACP. I fitted it with adjustable sights, sent it off to Ed Brown for one of the first Beavertail grip safeties, had my local 'smith

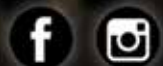
Estate Find

Several decades back, a fellow at church came up to me and asked me if I would be interested in buying a Colt .45 from an estate sale he was settling. He said the price was \$100, and I immediately said I'll take it. He asked if I wanted to know anything about it, and I said, "No, for \$100, I'll take anything that is a Colt .45, be it sixgun or semi-automatic." It turned out to be a Commercial Model

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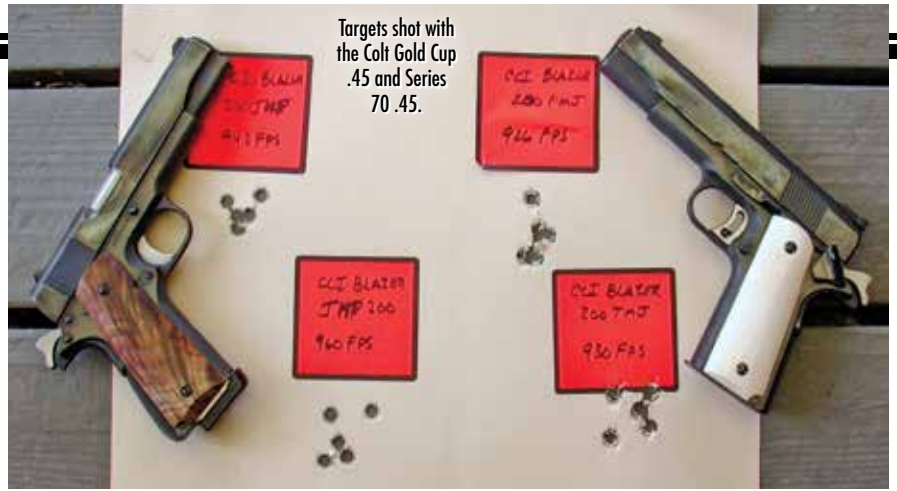
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from 1914. The grip frame had some pitting from someone's sweaty hands, so I had the entire gun refinished with a blued slide and satin nickel frame. It is now well past the century mark, and it still shoots accurately and right to the point of aim. As old as it is, I don't push it. However, with hardball or hardball-nosed cast bullets, it works just fine.

Series 70s

My early Series 70 was sent to Ed DeLorge to be engraved, satin nicked and fitted with ivory grip panels. It is the perfect Texas Bar-B-Q Government Model, especially when paired with a fully carved El Paso Saddlery belt, holster and twin magazine pouch. It is a beautiful gun and I do shoot it. However, it looks so nice it gave me an excuse to pick up a plain Jane Series 70 for everyday use. I did have to fancy it up a little bit and it now wears ivory grip panels also.

As a young shooter, I learned a lot from a fellow named Kent Bellah. One of his axioms was a pair and a spare; if you have a gun you really like, you need to pick up a second one and then a third one just in case. My "spare" is a Series 70 also but in the Gold Cup configuration, complete with adjustable sights.

Gold Cup

I acquired Gold Cup fever from a fellow I later got to know, John Lachuk. In the early 1960s, he had a picture of

a Gold Cup with very special grips — Combat Camp Perry grips by Herrett's. They start as standard target grips and then the excess and unneeded wood like the thumb rest is removed. The result is a slightly larger pair of stocks, such as the custom Lew Sandersons preferred by Jeff Cooper. It took longer to get the stocks than to get the Gold Cup. However, my Gold Cup now wears Herrett's Combat Camp Perry stocks.

Modern Production

I've only had them for a couple of years, but I will still predict four will become favorites before they go to the grandsons. Rate them "4F" — *Fear-some Foursome of Future Favorites!*

Virtually everyone producing 1911s came out with a 100th Anniversary Model .45 in 2011. Most of the Colt 1911s I experienced in my early shooting years were war surplus with a Parkerized finish — the original 1911s had a nicely polished finish. The Colt 100th Anniversary Model is polished and finished in a deep blue-black Colt called black oxide. Grip panels are double diamond, nicely checkered, walnut with a somewhat light tan finish and some grain pattern — beautiful and too nice to replace. As expected, it shoots exceptionally. Controls are also 100-year-old technology with no extension on the thumb safety or slide stop, and of course, no beavertail grip safety.





Colt's 100th Anniversary Model, right, compared with the pre-WWI Commercial Model.

The mainspring housing is flat and smooth just as it was on the original and is matched up with a long trigger. A great step back into history.

The Colt Combat Elite .45, which has all the features one could want in a carry/self-defense pistol, is also quite pleasing to look at as it is finished much like my 1914 Colt. The stainless-steel frame is matched up with a blue steel slide and the best-looking factory grips I've ever seen on a Colt 1911. They are fashioned of Rosewood with a diagonal line separating checkering to the right of this line from a smooth finish to the left. In the center, we find COLT nicely carved into each grip panel. Like the 100th Anniversary Model, I see no reason to swap grips on this 1911.

Two other Colt .45s are both stainless steel. The Government Model is a plain Jane with standard sights and controls and is an upgraded version of the classic blue 1911 with a finish made for rugged duty.

The second stainless Government Model is known as the Rail Model. This one has all kinds of extras in addition to the same brushed stainless-steel finish as well as the flat mainspring housing and long trigger and, of course, the same interior features and .45 ACP chambering. This pistol is designed for serious self-defense. Sights are fixed combat style of the three white dot variety with both being set in dovetails. The rear sight is melted, so there are no sharp edges to catch on clothing. The slide has deep diagonal serrations both front and rear for easy cocking.

The thumb safety is ambidextrous; the hammer is Commander style, the grip safety is the beavertail style hollowed out at the top to allow it to ride high and not interfere with the hammer. Grips are double diamond checkered exotic wood, which appears to be rosewood. An extra added feature gives this pistol its name as a machined-in rail is found in front of the trigger guard to accept a flashlight. This is, without a doubt, one of the best shooting Colt 1911s I have ever experienced.



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VENGEANCE OR SELF-DEFENSE? THE INEZ GARCIA CASE

SITUATION: A ripple of gunfire triggers a series of trials in which many critical issues are raised.

LESSON: The pursuit of criminals has a high likelihood of ending poorly. Straight-up self-defense trumps “impaired capability” defenses at trial. Remaining calm is a courtroom imperative.

It is March 19, 1974, at 9:37 p.m. on Monterey Street in Soledad, Calif. The eyes of witnesses are drawn to three people. Two of them, Hispanic males, will later be described as a “Mutt and Jeff” team. One is short and wiry, while the other weighs more than 300 lbs. The third person is a Latina and what catches the witnesses’ attention is the rifle she is holding.

The witnesses see a large knife in the big man’s hand and a flash of movement. Immediately, there is a crackle of gunfire. Sharp reports pierce the night as eight spent .22 LR cases sprinkle the pavement. The big man, Miguel Jimenez, falls heavily to the ground. The smaller man, Luis Castillo, runs. Witnesses see the woman point the rifle at him, but she does not fire. Then she lowers the gun and walks away.

The woman’s name is Inez Garcia. She has triggered not only a .22 caliber rifle but a case that will arouse controversy — and trial tactics debate — that will last for decades and still be under discussion long after she and the attorneys who represented her are gone.

Prelude

Inez Garcia was 30 years old at the time of the shooting and had led a hard life. Born with some cognitive challenges, she showed up well below average on intelligence tests. She never learned to read or write in either English or Spanish or tell time.

At the time of the incident, she was married with an 11-year-old son. Her Cuban-born husband was in prison for crimes related to his militant anti-Castro activities. In her younger years, she experienced behavior issues and had been institutionalized. Working in menial jobs, Inez was at or below the poverty line and currently living with her son at the home of Alfredo Medrano, who was afflicted with tuberculosis. Virtually all who knew her at the shooting described her as a nice, religious lady, always eager to be helpful to anyone.

On the night in question, their home had hosted Jimenez and Castillo. Both men had been drinking beer and brandy, and it was alleged there had been drug use as well, but Garcia had merely sipped a small amount of whiskey. The night had turned ugly, and both men had brutally beaten Mr. Medrano over a perceived slight. In the course of the discussion, they mentioned a man Castillo had stabbed in an earlier incident. They began to turn both hostility and sexual innuendo upon Inez Garcia.

Assault

Not long after, Garcia swore, the pair caught her alone. Garcia said the big man had stood by menacingly, armed with a long kitchen knife, as the smaller man raped her. She said she was forced to take off her clothes to facilitate the attack for fear of being killed.

Garcia would say she returned to the home she platonically shared with Medrano and there received a call from Castillo and Jimenez in which they threatened her with death if she told anyone of the rape. There were two firearms in the apartment, and she found ammunition to load them both: a Remington 870 Wingmaster 12-gauge pump shotgun and a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle. (1). Her roommate Medrano, also fearing death at the hands of Jimenez and Castillo, took the shotgun. They left the place together in Medrano’s car. Shortly after that, they spotted the violent pair in the street.

Street Justice Or Self-Defense?

And now, Jimenez was dead. The forensic pathologist who did the autopsy would testify at

Continued on next page

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trial, "(T)here were two abdominal wounds which I interpreted as being gunshot wounds; One on the right side of the abdomen and one on the left side of the abdomen entry and exit wound, and they were very superficial just through the fatty tissue. And there was an abrasion of the right thigh in the front, which I also interpreted as possibly being a grazing type of wound from a bullet." (2)

These were adynamic injuries, that is, neither neutralizing nor life-threatening. What had killed him was one more bullet. This one, weighing 40 grains, had entered the left eye and pierced the brain. At more than 300 lbs., Jimenez's body weighed well over two million grains. The bullet that felled him seemed to exemplify the David versus Goliath disparity between the knife-armed man and the rifle-armed woman.

Nonetheless, she was indicted for murder. The case immediately became a *cause célèbre* followed nationwide, with the rare distinction of rallying both sides of the political spectrum to Garcia's side. On the farthest right, anyone who thought the movie *Death*

Wish should be a training film could see "street justice" in the prosecution's narrative of a woman hunting down and killing those who raped her. In both the center and left, the Inez Garcia case plucked a chord in the burgeoning Women's Rights and Women's Liberation movements.

The First Trial

A lot was going against Inez Garcia at trial. She had left the shooting scene, meekly surrendering shortly after that, so there was a "flight equals guilt" element. The prosecution saw her having left home armed as making her the aggressor seeking revenge. Like many sexual assault victims, she had failed to mention the rape initially, giving rise to the suspicion she had made it up, and that was buttressed when the prosecution introduced testimony she'd torn her blouse and had someone punch her in the face so she'd have a bruise to show if she claimed self-defense.

Garcia's lead defense counsel was Charles Garry, an avowed Communist and counsel for the Black Panther Party and Jim Jones' Peoples' Temple. He chose to go with an impaired capability defense, hoping to establish his client had been so traumatized by the rape she didn't know what she was doing when

she killed Jimenez. One expert witness he called for the defense was Dr. Jane Oldden, a professor of psychiatry.

Dr. Oldden told the jury in part, "She was in a state of impaired consciousness, which is what I meant by so-called dissociative act. After the rape and in the whole subsequent events until she fired, she was indeed engaged in the internal conflict between the feeling that she was demeaned and defiled and permanently damaged by the rape so that she was not thinking about the consequences in the sense of the world around her or what the world around her would judge the consequences of her act, and she was in an impaired consciousness. To explain this better, would-be dissociative acts are like sleepwalking..." (3)

Garcia hurt her own case during the trial. In his informative book *The Trial of Inez Garcia*, Kenneth W. Salter wrote the jury was present in the courtroom when at one point, Inez stood up from the defense table and shouted at the judge, "Why don't you find me guilty and put me in jail? I killed the mother-fucker because I was raped, and I'll kill him again. You're acting like an old — you pig!" (4)

On the opposite side of the case was a young and very professional assistant district attorney, Arthur



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“Skip” Braudrick. In reviewing the transcript, one gets the impression his heart might have been with the defendant, but his head was running the game, focusing on elements he felt constructed a solid case of murder. In his close, the prosecutor argued to the jury, “It is your job as jurors not to decide this case on sympathy or passion, but on the facts.” (5)

In the end, it was Skip Braudrick’s argument that prevailed. The jury found Inez Garcia guilty, and she was promptly incarcerated.

Appeal

In December 1975, the Court of Appeal found the judge’s instructions pertaining to proof beyond a reasonable doubt were defective. Her conviction was overturned, and the case was remanded for a second trial.

By then, the world was watching.

The Second Trial

Garcia’s second trial took place in 1977. This time her lead defense attorney was Susan B. Jordan. Jordan had taken part in the appeal and was intimately familiar with the trial testimony and, perhaps more important, the overriding issues. An activist lawyer, Jordan was also a pragmatist who clearly understood jury psychology and legal principles.

Where Mr. Garry had focused heavily on Garcia’s psychological burdens and an impaired capacity defense, Ms. Jordan went straight to the heart of the matter. She focused primarily on pure self-defense issues.

To establish self-defense, it must be shown the defendant was in immediate and unavoidable danger of death or great bodily harm. This, in turn, demands three elements must have been present, most commonly known as Ability, Opportunity and Jeopardy.

Ability means the power to kill or cripple: a weapon or disparity of force. Disparity of force means such an advantage in unarmed combat that the ability to harm or kill becomes the equivalent of a deadly weapon, warranting the intended victim’s recourse to an actual deadly weapon, such as a firearm. Opportunity means the opponent can immediately employ that power, i.e., within range of doing lethal or crippling harm. Jeopardy is the manifest intent element: The assailant must have manifested, by words and/or actions, an intent to kill or cause grave bodily injury.

Jordan built her case masterfully, brick by brick.

Ability was present three-fold. When Garcia began pulling the trigger, Miguel Jimenez was holding a large knife. He was also vastly bigger and stronger than she, over 300 lbs. He had another element of disparity of force

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on his side, the force of numbers: His partner in crime, Luis Castillo, was right there with him. The Ability box was checked.

Opportunity was present for either man to attack Inez Garcia. The testimony of eyewitness Alfredo Medrano was Jimenez was about 20 feet from Garcia when she opened fire. (6) Almost a decade later, the pioneering research by Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City Police Department would show the average adult male could close 21 feet and inflict a fatal stab wound in an average time of 1.5 seconds from a standing start. But even in the 1970s, it was obvious that a man 20 feet away with a knife could be an immediate deadly danger. Opportunity: Check.

Finally, Jimenez's and Castillo's previous actions had established manifest intent. The rape by Castillo, abetted by Jimenez's threatening, looming presence, their savage beating of Medrano that Garcia had witnessed, and the phone call threatening her with death all made it clear Garcia was in potentially lethal danger from both of them at the time she opened fire.

Garcia had been behind bars for the entire time between trials. The second trial began on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 1977. On March 4, after 11 hours of deliberation, a jury of 10 men and two women returned a Not Guilty verdict on all counts.

The courtroom gallery exploded in cheers. Inez Garcia was a free woman again.

Follow-Up

Inez Garcia became an advocate for women's rights in general and the rights of rape victims in particular. She passed away from cancer in 2003. Charles Garry died at age 82 in 1991, leaving behind an autobiography he titled *Streetfighter in the Courtroom: the People's Advocate*. Susan Jordan's stellar legal career ended in the fatal crash of a light plane in 2009.

And Luis Castillo, the man accused of raping Inez Garcia, was never even charged.

Lessons

From the trial tactics side, the stark lesson from this case is that a straightforward self-defense strategy beats an impaired capability defense. In his informative study of this trial, cited previously, Kenneth Salter wrote, "The strategy of the defense (in the first trial) was to premise Inez Garcia's actions on a defense of diminished capacity: to argue to the jury through the use of expert psychiatric testimony that after the rape Inez was hysterical

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and didn't know what she was doing. She was so emotionally upset that this woman with a prior history of mental instability was so affected by the rape that it thrust her into such a state of mental impairment that her hysteria and terror made her seek to kill in self-defense." (7)

The trouble is, the impaired capability defense has a history of success that is spotty at best and often fails as it does here. The jury pool is made up of the general public. The general public tends to think, "Let my 11 new friends and me on the jury get this straight. For whatever reason, this person loses their mind and kills people, and you want us to put them back on the same streets as our loved ones? Um ... No!"

There may also have been misogyny at work that went undetected during jury selection, and if so, an admission of "homicidal hysteria" is unlikely to win a Not Guilty vote. A male juror from the first trial was alleged to have later remarked, "A rapist is just trying to give a woman a good time," or words to that effect.

As established by Susan Jordan in the second Garcia trial, straight-up self-defense is something virtually everyone in the jury pool can relate to. This is not to say there is no place for the so-called "battered women's defense," the proper term for which is Learned Helplessness, to explain why such a victim might not have gone directly to the police. It seems to work best when presented supplementally rather than as a cornerstone theory of the defense.

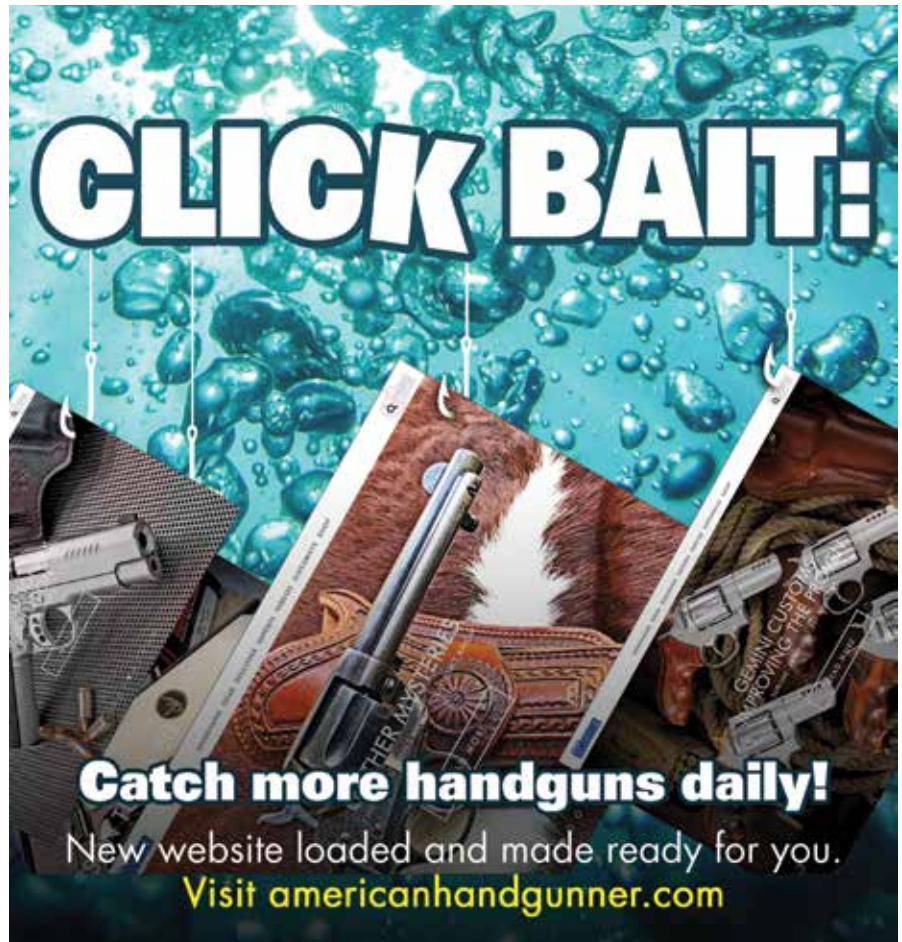
Now, lessons from the armed citizen side. First, win the race to the phone and report the crime committed against you. If Garcia had gotten to the phone and reported her rape at the hands of Castillo and Jimenez, they would probably have been quickly picked up, and there would have been no shooting at all. (The suspects hadn't gone far. The shooting occurred some six blocks from the rape scene.)

The prosecution made a big deal of the vigilante justice thing. In the second defense, there was more emphasis on the death threats made to Garcia by the two men in the immediate aftermath of the rape. The jury saw the progression of violence. Castillo, and particularly Jimenez, had savagely beaten Medrano. The escalation then went to rape and then up into the death threats. These were sufficient to warrant someone arming themselves for personal protection. The jury learned that Jimenez had a blood alcohol content of 0.16% at the time of death, which today would constitute "twice the standard for legally drunk." While the prosecution focused on its allegation of her "hunting them down," the defense concentrated hard on the



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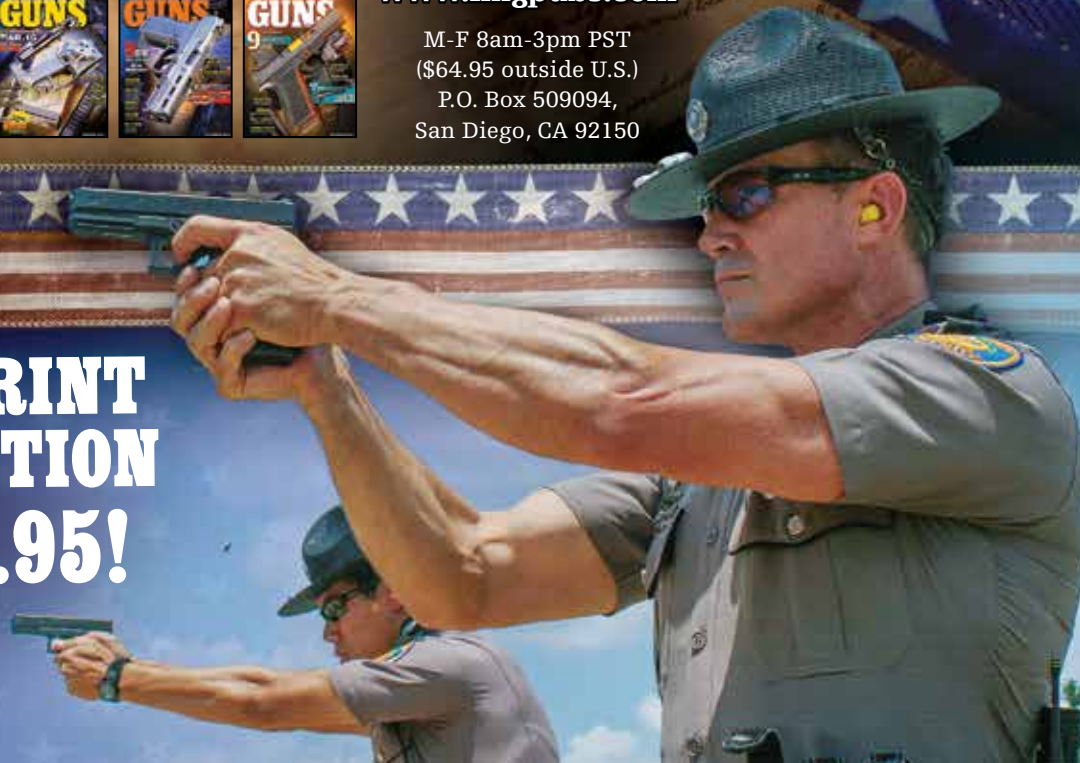
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very seconds before the first shot, when Jimenez faced the defendant with an 8" blade knife in his hand, at close enough distance to kill.

Unless one is still under attack by the original attacker's accomplices, leaving the scene is never a good idea. "Flight equals guilt" is a precept so old you find it in the Bible. Proverbs 28:1 states, "The wicked flee where no man pursueth, but the righteous man stands his ground as bold as a lion." In this case, that "consciousness of guilt" element further steepened the already steep hill the defense team was facing.

Don't babble. There was testimony that right after the rape, Garcia had blurted she wanted to kill her attackers. That goes to intent and state of mind issues. It hurt her case. There was testimony that, between the shooting and the arrest, she had said she "shot the deceased five times in the heart with one more bullet in the face." That didn't help either.

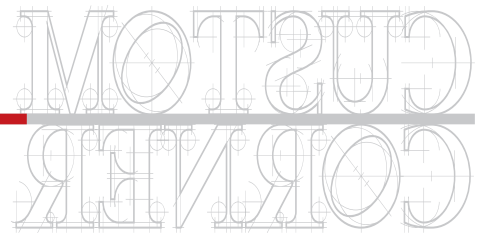
Resist the instinct to pursue. As in this case, you may be seen not as the victim with a right to fight back but the vindictive, murderous instigator of a second encounter.

It is true "perfect can be the enemy of good." The state alleged Garcia made someone punch her in the face and tore her blouse to create a stronger image of herself as a victim and introduced testimony to that effect. The defense denied it. Whichever is true, trying to look more like a victim — or in any other way trying to make your case look better than it is, altering or planting or destroying evidence — is absolute poison that can kill a legitimate self-protection case in court.

My old friend John Farnam's advice applies to this case: Never go to stupid places and do stupid things with stupid people. If Jimenez and Castillo hadn't been accepted in Garcia and Medrano's abode while they were drinking, none of this would have happened, and you would be reading about a historic shootout or something on this page instead of the very instructive case of Inez Garcia. 

Footnotes: (1) There is no reference to the make and model of the .22 in the trial transcript reviewed. (2) Dr. Konrad Wolfgang Titus' testimony in the first trial. (3) The testimony of Dr. Jane Oldden in the first trial. (4) Salter, Kenneth W., The Trial of Inez Garcia, Berkeley, CA: Justa Publications, 1976, page 182. (5) Salter, Ibid., page 310. (6) From the taped 3/20/74 interview of Alfredo Medrano by District Attorney's Office Investigator Robert S. Russell. (7) Salter, op. cit., page iv.

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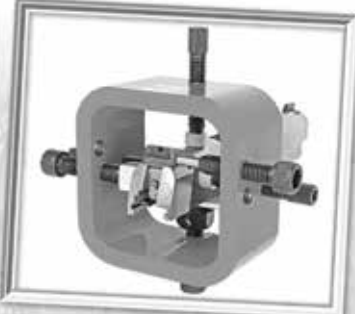
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As part of my year-long experiment with appendix carry, I met the folks at Tenicor Holsters. I’d been itching to equip the Staccato C2 9mm carry gun with a compact Streamlight TLR-7A light, and a quick inquiry led me to the Sagax Lux2 model.

There are many AIWB holsters on the market; here’s why this one is special. Many AIWB users add a foam pad to the inside surface of the holster body to shift the muzzle forward, drive the top of the gun flush against the torso and create a more comfortable fit. The Tenicor holsters have this “wedge” built-in. Check!

The dual low-profile metal clips are adjustable for ride height and cant angle and feature an aggressive underhook for belt anchoring. It’s not slipping out. Three camming bar options allow you to adjust how the pistol butt is angled to the body.

The end result? I can carry a mid-size, 16+1 capacity pistol with a weapon light comfortably and invisibly under a T-shirt. Well done. Tenicor.com



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STREAMLIGHT TLR-7A WEAPONLIGHT

With the modern crop of compact weapon-mounted lights, there's no reason not to have one on a home defense pistol. In fact, with the broad availability of light-compatible holsters, there's no longer reason not to have one on a concealed carry pistol too. I've been using the Streamlight TLR-7A with a Staccato



C2 and Tenicor Sagax Lux2 holster, and this compact light adds no concealment difficulty to an IWB rig.

While a hand-held light is a must-have companion to a weapon-mounted light, I did try the TLR-7A in pitch dark rooms using a low-ready reflection

technique. Is the onboard 500 lumens enough to illuminate large areas when pointed at a 45-degree angle toward the floor? Yes. The reflected light from this unit easily illuminated a 65x30' dark space.

The TLR-7A features vertical activation switches (high or low) to minimize the risk of activation from holster pressure. You'll get 1.5 hours of operation from a CR123A battery. Rotating the bezel offers a positive "off" mode for maintenance and daytime use. Streamlight.com

LYMAN 51st EDITION RELOADING HANDBOOK



Reloading manuals are a bit like self-defense gear. You know, that whole "two is one, one is none" thing. However, the math is a bit different. In my book, it's more like "four is one." It's essential to have multiple books, but one stands out as a must-have in any collection — Lyman's.

Most other manuals are produced by companies that make powder or projectiles, so the recipes favor those products. That's okay, but sometimes you need the "every powder for every projectile" scoop. Enter Lyman. They favor ... everything. It's arguably the most comprehensive reloading resource you can get.



The 51st Edition includes updated tips and tricks, how-to articles, and info on reloading with progressive presses. It also brings new recipe information for cartridges, including 224 Valkyrie, 22 Nosler, 24 Nosler, 6mm ARC, 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC, 6.5 Wea. RPM, 6.8 Western, 300 PRC and more. It'll run ya \$34.98 for the softcover and \$44.98 for the hardcover version. LymanProducts.com



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NEW PRODUCTS

EDC HOLSTERS FOR STANCE

CrossBreed Holsters

CrossBreed Holsters announces a range of *EDC Holsters for Stance*, Savage Arms' new polymer-frame, 9mm semi-auto. Several holster models with Kydex pockets are molded specifically for Stance including the SuperTuck and the MiniTuck IWB holsters. These holsters are designed for deep concealment and maximum comfort and stability while allowing the user to wear their shirt outside or tucked in. MSRP: SuperTuck \$75.95; MiniTuck \$73.95. For more info: (888) 732-5011, CrossBreedHolsters.com



HERITAGE ROUGH RIDER TC

Heritage Mfg. Inc.

The *Heritage Rough Rider TC* is a single-action rimfire revolver that's best for plinking and controlling pests and varmints. It's chambered in 22 LR but is also compatible with the 22WMR cylinder so you can shoot either 22 LR or 22 WMR ammo. Built with numerous grip options and the same classic profile and precision, the *Heritage Rough Rider Tactical Cowboy* features modern day technology in an old classic design. With an OAL of 11.85" and a 6-round capacity, the *Rough Rider's* barrel is threaded for compensators and suppressors. MSRP: \$249. For more info: (229) 515-8099, HeritageMfg.com

RAZORWORK

Outdoor Edge

RazorWork from Outdoor Edge accepts both 3.5" *RazorSafe* utility blades and 3.5" *RazorSafe* drop-point blades. Outdoor Edge's *RazorSafe* System allows for a quick and safe blade change with the push of a button. The knife's ergonomic handle features Peak Performance texture and dual thumb studs for easy one-hand opening. *RazorWork* is 8" long, weighs 2.6 oz. and comes with two 3.5" utility blades and one 3.5" drop-point blade. MSRP: \$30.95. For more info: (800) 447-3343, OutdoorEdge.com



COP 3 SLOT HOLSTER

GALCO Holsters

Galco's *Cop 3 Slot* holster is precision-molded and allows comfortable carry in both the strong-side and cross-draw positions. A tension screw near the trigger guard allows micro-adjustment of the draw, while the handgun's rear sight is protected by the wide safety strap. The low-cut front allows for easier, faster clearance of the firearm from the leather while also accommodating most red dot sights. The *Cop 3 Slot* holster fits over 150 different autos and revolvers. MSRP: \$102. For more info: (800) 874-2526, GalcoGun-Leather.com



UNIVERSAL CLEANING KITS

Breakthrough Clean Technologies

The *Universal Cleaning Kits* from Breakthrough include stainless steel rods, a T-handle, patch holders, various bore brushes and an All-In-One (CLP) cleaner and lubricant. The kits are available for handguns, rifles and shotguns. The one for handguns is suitable for .22, .357, .38, 9mm, .40, 10mm, .44 and .45 calibers. MSRP: \$15.95 for the handgun cleaning kit. For more info: (888) 455-5499, BreakthroughClean.com



FXS-9

American Tactical Inc.

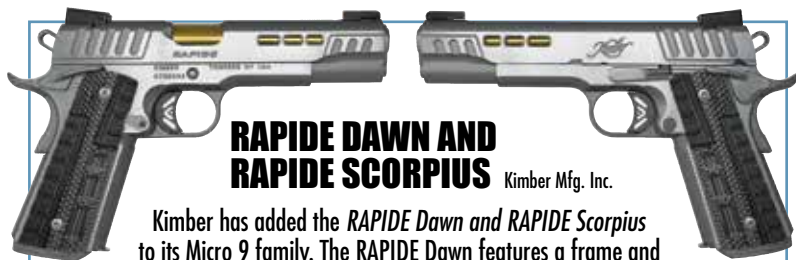
The *FXS-9* from American Tactical Inc. has a high-strength polymer frame with a polished black finish and interchangeable backstrap. On top of the frame is a steel slide with forward and rear serrations. With an OAL of 7.45" and height of 5.6", the *FXS-9* has a 4.1" barrel and weighs 26.5 oz. Chambered in 9mm, the striker fire *FXS-9* comes either with a 10- or 17-round magazine and includes a loaded-chamber indicator. MSRP: \$349.95. For more info: (800) 290-0065, AmericanTactical.us



MPA DS9 COMMANDER

MasterPiece Arms

MasterPiece Arms adds the *MPA DS9 Commander* to its wide-body, double-stack 1911 pistol line. MPA machined the light rail frame, TriTop slide, 4.25" MPA 416R stainless bull barrel, stainless steel beavertail/grip safety, stainless steel ambidextrous safety and more. The *DS9 Commander* also includes a Koenig hammer, sear and disconnect, Wolff Springs, custom-machined aluminum trigger shoe, a one-piece stainless guide rod and a 3.5-lb. trigger pull. MSRP: \$2,999.99. For more info: (866) 803-0000, MasterPieceArms.com



RAPIDE DAWN AND RAPIDE SCORPIUS

Kimber Mfg. Inc.

Kimber has added the *RAPIDE Dawn* and *RAPIDE Scorpion* to its Micro 9 family. The *RAPIDE Dawn* features a frame and slide finished in Silver KimPro II with brush-polished flats, a Gold TiN finished barrel and gray/black RAPIDE G-10 grips. The *RAPIDE Scorpion* on the other hand has a frame and slide finished in Black KimPro II with brush-polished flats, a black DLC finish barrel and black RAPIDE G-10 grips. Chambered in 9mm, both 1911s have 5" stainless steel, match-grade barrels with a 1:16" left-hand twist. The two RAPIDE models also include TruGlo TFX Pro Day/Night sights with Kimber's signature orange front ring. MSRP: \$1,729 each. For more info: (888) 243-4522, KimberAmerica.com



HELLCAT PRO

Springfield Armory

Springfield Armory's *Hellcat Pro* is a 9mm compact pistol in a smaller footprint than any other gun in its class. Optics ready and equipped with an accessory rail and hammer-forged barrel, this everyday carry pistol packs a 15+1 capacity with the flush-fitting magazine while maintaining its ergonomic, slim profile. The slim-line grip feels superb in hand, increasing contact and control, while the additional mass in the slide and barrel translates into reduced muzzle flip and faster follow-up shots. MSRP: \$600 to \$699. For more info: (800) 680-6866, Springfield-Armory.com

SILENT HERO 4

TOPS Knives



Introducing TOPS Knives' first new model of 2022: the *Silent Hero 4!* It's an EDC version of the original *Silent Hero*, designed by Anton Du Plessis. The handle and blade shape of the full-sized knife were perfect for a variety of tasks. By shrinking them down, you get a knife that is easily carried but still long enough to handle a majority of cutting tasks. While this smaller version looks the same as its predecessor, there is a difference: the blade is 1/8" instead of 3/16"; the finish is Sniper Grey Cerakote instead of Black River Wash; and the knife comes with a Kydex instead of leather sheath. MSRP: \$255. For more info: (208) 542-0113, TOPSKnives.com



D&L CUSTOM SIXGUN

D&L Sports Inc.

D&L Sports now offers the *D&L Custom Sixgun*. Customized Single Action Rugers like the one in the picture are available in .357, 44 Spl., 44 Mag and .45. There is a D&L line of sights not just for Ruger but also for S&W and Colt. MSRP: Custom Revolver from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on detail work; Sights are \$95 each. For more info: (928) 636-1726, DLSports.com



TAURUS G3XL

Taurus

The *Taurus G3XL* in 9mm has a compact frame, an alloy steel slide with a Tenifer Matte Black finish and a polymer grip. With a capacity of 12 rounds, the G3XL has a barrel length of 4" and an OAL of 7.28". Other features include a drift adjustable rear sight, fixed front sight, loaded chamber indicator, striker block and trigger safety. The G3XL comes with two 12-round mags. MSRP: \$342.98. For more info: (800) 327-3776, TaurusUSA.com

BEAR EDGE 61123

Bear Edge Knives

The *Bear Edge 61123* features a 3" modified Warndcliffe blade made from 440 stainless steel. Built for reliable, on-demand action, this knife's black aluminum handles are comfortable in the hand and designed for hard use. Open length is 7¼"; closed length is 4-¼".

MSRP: \$65.99. For more info: (256) 435-2227, BearAndSonCutlery.com



M&P 10MM M2.0

Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson expands its M&P M2.0 line of handguns with the *M&P 10mm M2.0*. The new standard 10mm comes with enhanced features like an optics-cut slide with the C.O.R.E. system enabling users to mount a variety of popular optics. It boasts a 16-round capacity, ships with two magazines and sports a brand-new M2.0 flat face trigger design. The M&P 10mm M2.0 comes with an 18-degree grip angle, four interchangeable palm-swell grip inserts more. MSRP: From \$654. For more info: (800) 331-0852, Smith-Wesson.com

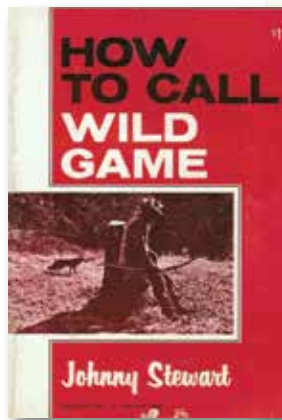


As I read, it struck me just because something happened 50 years ago doesn't mean it's not significant today. Look at Remington Model 700 rifles. It's astonishing to learn how that model morphed into the legend it is now. The catalogs tell stories for all these companies. You just need to look.

What struck me most was the deep sense of — for lack of a better word — comfort, I felt looking at the oh-so-familiar company names. It started a video loop in my memory dragging me back to a 12 year old with a 1966 *Gun Digest* open to the .22 rifle catalog page in the back. Remember those? Names like Remington, Winchester, Colt, Savage and others bore almost mystical power over legions of kids just like me — and you. As I got older and finally able to own and shoot some of the guns I used to only dream about, there was a sense of maturing, a sense of “adult-hood” with the accompanying responsibilities going with it. Remember?

The thing is, I don't get that same feeling of nostalgia when I stumble onto a website with a picture of an old catalog. Besides, when I click away it's gone forever. Nobody can send me a cardboard box full of “old website links” able to generate the same set of sensory emotions I get holding a book or classic catalog. I opened the box Jeff had sent and the indulgent odor of yellowed paper and “grandma's house” — which only a box of old papers can manage — met my nose and the smiles began. The real magic is you can walk away and come back later — and it's still there sitting on your desk. Unlike electrons, paper has staying power.

The thing is, it's not just the old papers — it's what they *mean*. It's where we



came from. Many of today's young people — in spite of the fact they might murmur, “Okay boomer” — are missing out if they don't open their eyes and their minds. If you're young and you like to shoot, try to ignite your hunger for the history of it all. While today's companies are innovative and come up with no end of amazing products and technology, if you shoot a vintage 1966 AR15 you're shooting living history — not a video game. You'll also better understand today's rifle platforms. To drive a 1955 Chevy is to better appreciate today's reliable rides. Get it?


To Wit?

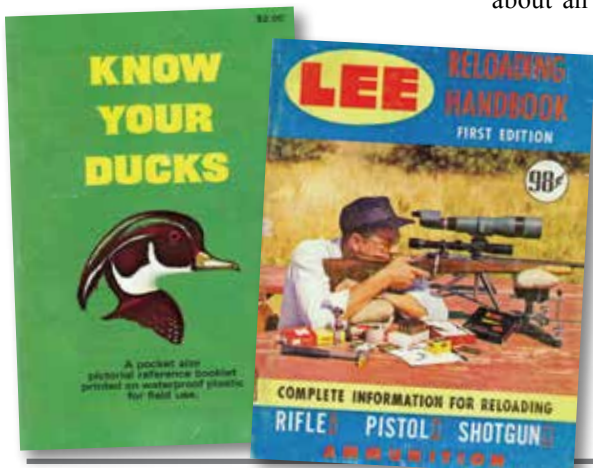
It's simple actually. If you like today's guns and gear, I promise you'll be amazed, astounded, aghast and generally have your breath knocked out when you see what shooters did 50 or 100 years ago. They truly did pave the way for today's rifle shooters, shotgunners, handgunners and innovators. Most of the things we do today were *invented* by them. To know them is to meet them and to learn what they knew.

Pick up Elmer Keith's book *Hell, I Was There*, or Cooper's books or O'Connor's, any early *Gun Digest* or call upon your own collection of *Handgunner* and *GUNS* magazines to relive and to learn. The best part about an old book is you can hand it

to your friend and say, “Here, read this, you'll enjoy it.”

The act of holding the book you gave to them has meaning and they can feel the weight of that meaning in their hands. Prepare to enrich your life. Prepare to be able to speak beyond the latest tweet, or 10-second video you scrolled past during your break.

You may need to learn to drive a stick  though. Just sayin'.



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

1791 Gunleather	66
American Handgunner Subscription	68
AmeriGlo	81
Armcor/Rock Island Armory	33
Bear & Son Cutlery	15
Beltman Inc.	72
Black Hills Ammunition	13
Burger Knives	72
Cylinder & Slide	73
CZ-USA	2, 21
DeSantis Gunhide	3
Diamond D Custom Leather	70
Dillon Precision Products	39
EOTECH Inc.	27
Fiocchi Ammunition	11
GripSwell	71
GUNS Magazine Subscription	74
HiViz Shooting Systems	9
Holosun	53
HSS Corp.	75
IronMind Enterprises Inc.	72
IWI US	17
Jennings Machine and Tool	75
Kimber	31
Les Baer Custom	83
Levergun Leather Works	6
Mag-na-port	67
MTM Case-Gard	76
North American Arms	65
Powder River Precision Inc.	75
Ruger	7
SAR USA	77
SCCY Industries	63
SIG SAUER	25
Simply Rugged Holsters	15
Sneaky Pete Holsters	35
Spartan Blades USA	67
Springfield Armory	84
Spyderco	9
Standard Manufacturing Co. LLC	23, 57
Streamlight Inc.	8
TAC SHEILD	10
Taurus International Mfg. Inc.	49
Ten-Ring Precision	75
Throom Targets	6
Thunder Mountain Custom	12
TOPS KNIVES	29
Trijicon	19
Tussey Custom	75
W.C. Wolff Company	71
Wilson Combat	38
Wyoming Sight Drifter LLC	75
XS Sights	67

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FORGETTING TO REMEMBER



To forget our past is to be ignorant of what's transpiring *now*. We see things happening around us but we often miss the foundation. Without knowing *how* we got here we're only seeing the echo from those events occurring decades or even 200 years prior. In talking with young people today, I've lost track of how many times I've heard, "Oh, I never thought of that" or "I didn't know that's why we do that." Worse yet, is when they say, "Oh, I don't really care about history, it's so — old."

We all can't know everything. The distressing trend I see is a general malaise when it comes to anything happening before the advent of the internet.

I'm not here to slam Millennials or young people in general at all. As a matter of fact, I do everything I can to help, encourage, equip and teach them at every possible opportunity and I know most of you do too. I give guns and ammo away, teach gunsmithing, offer shooting tips, make videos specifically geared toward new shooters and we always try to include articles interesting to new shooters in all our magazines and online.

The hitch is what I call the "thumb through it" mode too many seem to be in today. If it's not a sound bite, a 10-second video or a shared link, too many young people simply don't *see* anything having to do with the history of shooting. Much of their experience and interest started at GLOCK

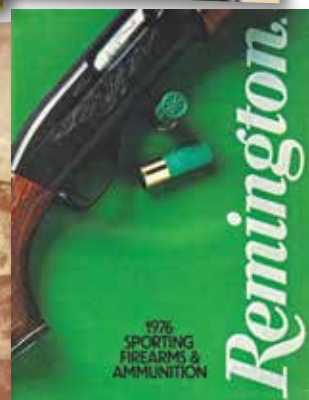
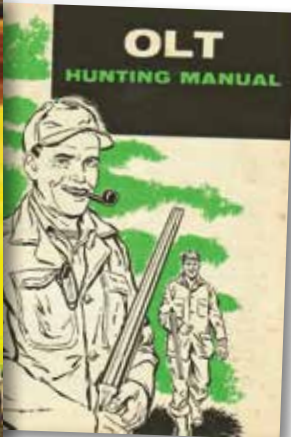
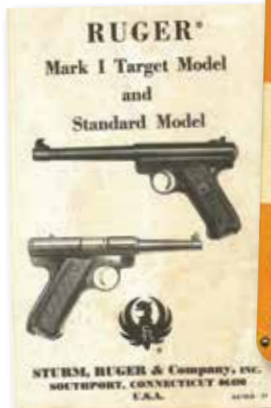
and video games and often stalls in that general area. It's tough to find younger shooters who are what I'd call "generalists" when it comes to shooting. The ones interested in learning new — and old — *stuff*.

When I was a kid, if it had anything to do with guns of any sort — I was interested. Shotguns, rifles, handguns, reloading, military arms, historical arms, edged weapons, tanks, fighter planes, submarines — you name it. If it was associated with any kind of ordnance it got my attention. I suspect many of you know exactly what I mean. I built my knowledge base by reading thousands of books, listening to smart people and trying it all out — myself.

Print Vs. Electronic

Reader and friend Jeff Riley was kind enough to send me a box full of old catalogs, flyers, pamphlets, tips and tricks booklets and much more. There's even a nifty Weaver Scope "Sighting-In Guide" built like a cardboard slide rule dated 1966 (75 cents, by the way). As I strolled down memory lane, the company names kept jumping out at me. Winchester, Lee, Colt, Hodgdon, Sierra, RCBS, Dupont, Dynamit Nobel, RWS, Daisy, Navy Arms, Savage, Browning, Remington, Marlin, Bishop and Son, Sears (!), Redfield, Mossberg, H&R, Ruger, J.L. Galef & Son — and they all made me smile.

Some companies are still with us and all have serious history in the industry.



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