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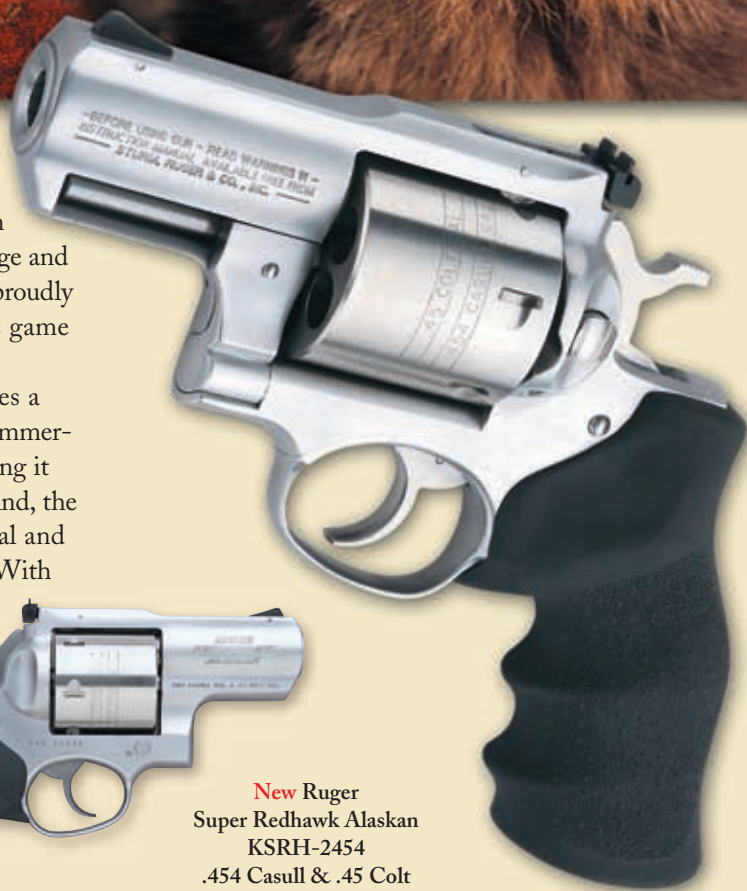
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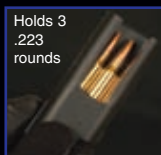
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MAGAZINE

GUNS
MAGAZINE
Fifty 50 Years
1955-2005

JUNE 2005

Vol. 51, Number 06-606th Issue



FEATURES

40 **Gun Feel Like Mud? Get Rid Of The Crud!**
SHANE GERICKE *The GUNS guide to rifle cleaning.*

44 **The Wildey Survivor**
JOHN TAFFIN *A man-sized magnum semiauto pistol.*

50 **The Battle Of Adobe Walls**
MIKE VENTURINO *The facts have been twisted over the years, but the real story is still astounding.*

56 **Merkel Doubles**
CLINT SMITH *Small-bore doubles are just as much fun as the big bores.*

44

On The Cover:
THE WILDEY SURVIVOR
Story: John Taffin
Photos: Ichiro Nagata

DEPARTMENTS

24 **Out Of The Box™**
• Kimber Valier
• Ruger P345
• Colt 1903

32 **Questions & Answers**

36 **Surplus Locker™**
Type 14 Nambu.

60 **Gun Of The Month**
Wheel Guns Are Real Guns.

77 **Quartermaster**

80 **New Products**

84 **GUNS Classifieds**

88 **Advertiser Index**

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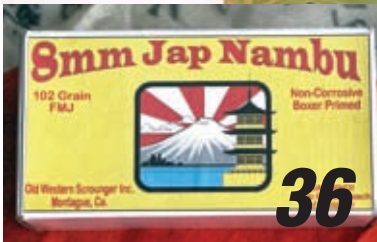
40



22



56



36



24

COLUMNS

- 6 Crossfire**
Letters To The Editor
- 8 Handguns**
Massad Ayoob
- 10 Rifleman**
Dave Anderson
- 14 Ranging Shots™**
Clint Smith
- 16 Montana Musings**
Mike "Duke" Venturino
- 18 Rimfires**
Holt Bodinson
- 20 Handloader**
Charles E. Petty
- 22 Knives**
Jim Gardner
- 62 Views, News & Reviews**
Rights Watch: David Codrea
- 86 Odd Angry Shot**
John Connor
- 90 Campfire Tales**
John Taffin



50

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GUNS MAGAZINE
APRIL 2005

CROSSFIRE^{LETTERS} TO GUNS

GUNS MAGAZINE™ welcomes letters to the editor for "Crossfire." Send your letters to:
CROSSFIRE, GUNS Magazine, 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. Email: ed@gunsmagazine.com

Glock Woes

More often than not when readers choose to write about their experiences with manufacturers it is a positive experience. A recent situation with Glock was quite the opposite. The slide lock spring on my M36 broke causing the slide lock to be lost. The person answering the phone at Glock said they did not sell parts direct to the public nor could they provide the name of an armorer in my area, but did refer me to a service engineer. He in turn advised they did sell some parts direct, but not what I needed. He also had no list of armorers, but did give stocking dealer names. Now I was able to call for myself to find an armorer. His parting words were "good luck." The parts have been ordered and I hope to get the right things.

When the factory can't identify their armorers you better hope you never need real support. No one ever inquired if the

gun was in warranty (it was not — it's almost 2 years old). There were no offers to provide these two parts, which would fit on your thumbnail. My first reaction was fix it and trade for a 1911 where parts and expertise are plentiful, but the Glock does have its moments and perhaps I'll never need to call them again (what would be the point). Of the four poly-frame guns I own, two went back to the factory for updates (read recalls) and this one broke.

Guess I'll be keeping this Glock, but no more thank you. Too many other players have pride in their products and are eager to provide support when needed.

C. Lemmon
Albuquerque, NM

More Rex Whacks

I really need to disagree with you on one part of your response to my choice of arms for Rex hunting. A *Stegosaurus* (the one with the tiny head, the goofy looking

plates along the back, and the four big spikes on the tail) has a brain the size of a walnut. I saw a T-rex skull up close at a museum and the brain box is substantially larger than a walnut. A lot of what we "knew" about dinosaurs as kids is turning out to be bogus.

Of course, if we are going to be using an M2 Browning, might I suggest an M59 armored personnel carrier (I remember those from when I served) with an armored turret on the TC position. The driver can remain buttoned up and use the vision blocks to see where he is driving.

For those of us without access to armored vehicles and Title III armament, the trick with a light rifle is tactics, woodsman-ship, stalking ability and excellent marksmanship. While it can be done, in theory, with a .30-06, I might be more comfortable with a wildcat like the .585 Nyati or a proprietary like the .577 Tyrannosaur.

continued on page 72

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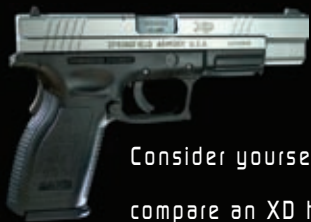
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EXPERIENCE

What armed citizens can learn from cops.

In the latter half of the 20th Century, the most advanced armed citizens were ahead of the cops in a lot of ways. They discovered the most efficient two-hand stances first. They adopted the autoloader first. Civilian-dominated shooting sports like IPSC have greatly influenced modern police training.

At the same time, down on the street-wise level and up at the court-smart stratum, there are things the cops have learned collectively through their institutional history a lot of even the sharpest-shooting armed citizens haven't caught onto yet. In the interest of good guys sharing with good guys, let's look at some positive police learning experiences you can internalize.

Qualification Records

Allegations of manslaughter and wrongful death after legitimate self-defense shootings tend to hinge on a theory of negligence on the part of the shooter. You need to be able to show you were as skillful and competent with a gun as the average cop. See about hosting an optional "qualification shoot" at your gun club for those who carry concealed, sort of like the "sighting in day" hosted for hunters in the fall. Perhaps the club secretary can keep the scores on file. A phone call to your state's Police Officer Standards and Training council should get you some sample courses of fire for police qualification accepted in your jurisdiction.

Carry Spare Ammo

A gun without spare ammunition is a temporary gun. Most actual gunfights don't require more than what the sidearm

is loaded with ... but some do. If you were playing the odds, neither you nor the cop would need to carry at all, because statistics say that neither of you will have to shoot someone in self-defense today. Good guys and gals carry guns because they recognize that aberrations of the statistics can occur. When they do, they won't necessarily be average aberrations of statistics. This is why all uniformed patrol cops wear spare ammo, and why the smart ones do so off duty. Besides, there are some handgun stoppages best cleared by emptying the gun and reloading it, another reason to always have spare load on hand.

Upgrade to full-capacity magazines if you haven't already. The onerous "magazine ban" is behind us and you'll find 15-round magazines don't weigh noticeably more in the pouch or the gun than 10-rounders, and a 50-percent boost in capacity might make the difference some day. There was a reason so many police departments went with double-stack magazines.

Keep a Light Handy

As long as anyone on NYPD can remember, uniformed officers there have been required to carry flashlights, even on day shift. You never know when a dark basement or a dark alley is in your future. Powerful, tiny flashlights get used daily even if you don't pack a gun. The gun-mounted flashlight pioneered by SWAT teams and now almost standard with K9 units is also gaining rapid acceptance for



The Glock magazine (left) in Mach II carrier and a HKS speedloader (right) in Safariland carrier. Invest in full-capacity magazines. A short time ago it was a crime for a civilian to possess this "law enforcement only" 15-round mag for Glock 22, but no more (at least in most states — sorry, California).

routine patrol. It makes huge sense on a home-defense firearm. Powerful "white light" can blind antagonists, and probably more important, it lets you tell friend from foe and benign from malignant. Stay with the best, proven brands, as the cops do: SureFire, InSight, Streamlight, etc.

Don't Use Ball Ammo

Virtually every law enforcement agency in the United States now issues some sort of expanding bullet ammunition. Cops learned the hard way that roundnose lead and jacketed hardball are ricochet-prone, over-penetrative, and below par in "stopping power." A .45 ACP hardball round can pierce some 26" of solid muscle-tissue-simulating ballistic gelatin. That's perforation through two people in a row, with the bullet stopping midway through a third. On the street, it would be dead bystanders. For the armed citizen, whose greatest likelihood of using a gun is against a home invader, that dead bystander is likely to be a member of the household.

There's a lot more, but we're running out of space. Suffice to say that, as police gun expert Ed Sanow put it, our nation's 700,000-some cops are the "road warriors." They have the most well-collected and analyzed body of data on what happens when bad people force good people into shootings. Ignoring that large body of knowledge, and the policies that have resulted from it, would be foolish. 



Pass some "qualification shoots" and keep records. These Lebanon, Missouri, Police Dept. officers are firing their issue Glock 17s at 50 yards during a Chapman Academy advanced course.

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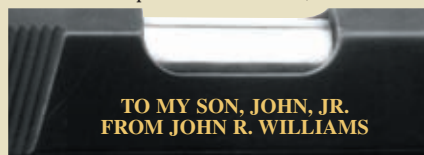
Each is custom-built to military specifications by Auto-Ordnance/Thompson, the company founded by General John T. Thompson, who helped develop .45 ACP ammunition and the weapon named after him, the Thompson. NRA test firing of this .45 showed accuracy "significantly better than the average as issued M1911." It fires .45 ACP ammo and could be used to defend your home, family and, of course, nation.

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The first centerfire rifle I ever owned was a sporterized, military surplus Lee-Enfield .303 British which cost me \$17.88. I bought it mail order when I was 14. You could do that then. I had been putting in long days driving a tractor on our farm and raising my own calves for five years. Dad figured if you did a man's work, you earned a man's privileges.

It's been over 40 years since Dad

took me to the railway station to pick up the long package and gave me a box of cartridges as a surprise. In those 40 years I've bought, sold, traded and borrowed hundreds of rifles.

I don't regret it. Plenty of times I've felt the same almost unbearable impatience, waiting for a rifle to arrive. And yet, the sad fact is I'm getting harder to please. Sometimes I find myself unboxing



The action is machined from hardened 4140. It's hard on tooling, but it ensures the receiver won't warp. Fluting the bolt reduces drag and lightens it. The scope is a Leupold VX-III 2.5-8x36 in Talley rings and bases.

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ACTION TYPE: Bolt Action

CALIBER: 7mm-08

CAPACITY: 4+1

BARREL LENGTH: 22" Shilen

No. 1.5 Contour

WEIGHT: 7 pounds, scoped

FINISH: Blue

SIGHTS: Drilled and tapped

STOCK: McMillan Ultra

Lightweight Graphite

PRICE: \$2,795

a test rifle with about as much anticipation as if it were a new socket wrench.

But the magic still happens. A few years ago I tested an Ed Brown 702 Ozark model for this magazine. Sending it back caused me severe emotional trauma. At the 2004 SHOT Show I stopped at the Ed Brown Custom booth, picked up the new Damara and it was like being 14 again. Here was a rifle that looked, felt, and handled as though the possibility of faults didn't exist.

"You must build me a rifle like this," I told Ed, "And before we start negotiating price, let me warn you I'm desperate and will pay anything." (I learned my negotiating technique from Homer Simpson.) Ed kindly allowed me to pay dealer price. For some reason manufacturers I deal with seem unaware of the popular belief that writers get guns for nothing. Most of the rifles I test are consignments on loan — this one is mine.

My Damara is a short action in caliber 7mm-08 Rem., with blued-steel barrel and action. Stainless steel barrels are an option, but I like blue steel. Other options (none of which I ordered) include left-hand actions, long actions, muzzle brakes and jewell triggers.

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contour Shilen match-grade barrel, 22" in standard calibers, 24" for magnums. The barreled action, with steel triggerguard and floorplate, is bedded in a McMillan Ultra Lightweight graphite stock. With Talley rings, bases and a Leupold 2.5-8x36 VX-III scope, weight is almost exactly seven pounds.

Good Bones

The 702 action is made from high-grade 4140 steel, heat treated before it is machined. Yes, it is much easier and cheaper to machine and then heat treat, but doing so can result in warped actions. The action is held on centers during manufacture so it will always be, in Brown's words "straight, true, and concentric." Scope bases, which Brown installs, are held with big 8-40 screws rather than the usual 6-48.

The bolt body is fluted, reducing weight and allowing a tighter fit without causing binding or dragging. The M16-style extractor is a strong hook which grabs a big chunk of the cartridge rim. The nicely contoured bolt handle is welded on, rather than brazed.

The recoil lug, sandwiched between the action and the Shilen barrel is big, strong and .30" thick. Bolt locking lugs are lapped for full contact in their locking recesses. Standard trigger is the superb Shilen adjustable. The safety is similar to that of the Winchester 70 — a three-position wing type. In central position it allows the bolt to be operated for loading and unloading with the trigger inoperable, while all the way back locks the bolt closed.

Worth The Wait

The wait for the rifle to show up was almost unbearable, as was the anticipation of opening the box. And the Damara did not disappoint. It balances and handles so perfectly it seems even lighter than it is. Bolt operation, feeding, locking, extraction, and ejection are smooth and flawless. The Shilen trigger breaks clean at a consistent 44 ounces.

I used Winchester 140-grain Ballistic Silvertips and got three-shot, 100-yard groups running from a best of 1/2" to the biggest of just under an inch. No real surprise. If an Ed Brown rifle isn't accurate, it doesn't leave the shop.

I can't find a single fault with the Damara, nor a single feature I would change or add. It isn't cheap, but it is made to the highest standards by people who love fine rifles. A flawless rifle, one that makes me feel 40 years younger. I'd call it money well spent.



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TACTICS

Sometimes it's how to think, not what to think.



If you can, leave clearing a house to the professionals. But what if your children need you or you have to escape a restaurant? Do you have the mindset to do so and minimize the risk to yourself and loved ones?

Bastogne, Seoul, Hue, Mogadishu and Fallujah. Spanning history and most of the planet over the last 70 years, what could these places possibly have in common? They are not all in deserts, jungles or mountains. They are not all hot, cold, wet or dry. These places were not always easily traversed by modern technology, tanks or armored vehicles. Yet all were plastered in a style typical of Old Testament Biblical fire and brimstone by mortars, artillery, air power and naval gunfire.

Want to know what two important things they have in common?

First of all, these places required an often young, dog tired, dirty, hungry,

tougher than a tree knot 11Bravo or 0311 infantryman to clear ... then hold until hell freezes over or someone tells 'em different.

The second really important thing all these places have in common? They got stinking doors, blown open windows, long narrow hallways, sharp dark corners and cruddy over-your-head stairwells. This is what they all have in common.

I won't go into the lack of initial training our troops get in this area as now it is improving.

I won't get into the fact that wars are often unpopular and, trust me, the many folks who step up to the plate to fight them for us are not always elated

about the war or with the often hedging support from home bodies and political hacks. I won't get into the fact that street cops all over America — sans tactical supporting fire — are facing the same complex tactical issues facing our troops world wide.

No, I won't mention all that stuff. So then, how about we discuss you? Do your personal tactics include an ability to clear buildings and structures? You say, "No way."

Good choice, you shouldn't learn tactics because you wanted to. You should in fact learn basic tactics in case you have to use them. A point of clarity, stay behind the bed, behind the locked bed-

Billiards are important to tactics because in this game of balls it is imperative to get the best angle or maneuver to get the ball in the pocket.

room door, call 911, let someone else solve the problem — all correct and probably smart ideas. Then again what if you had to solve your own problem?

Your kids are calling for help at the other end of the house, or the way to safety out of a gunfire-filled restaurant lies down a hall and out a backdoor.

By now you get the point.

So what are tactics? Why could they be important to you? How would you acquire these skills — and trust me they are acquired. Do you have to know as much as a SWAT team or a Special Operations Trooper to survive an encounter? Probably not.

Science Of Sorts

Tactics are a science of a sort but not rocket science. Tactics are a science of organization of mind and equipment to which the addition of physical movement is required to accomplish the tasks

at hand. I teach that in its simplest form, tactics are based on one's ability to think of architecture and the game of billiards. Architecture is applied in the sense of looking at a building or structure, planning a way to clear said structure and implementing the plan without getting killed. The not getting killed part is important and remember most plans change if there is contact with a threat. Billiards are important to tactics because in this game of balls it is imperative to get the best angle or maneuver to get the ball in the pocket. Then you win.

So now we come to the sticky part. Look at the structure and figure out the best angle to clear it while the least amount of you is exposed to possible return fire from a threat. By working these angles, the thought is to clear the problem with your weapons and lights in support, maximizing the distance to the threat

while minimizing yourself as a target. Tactics, no problem.

Commonalities

So then we apply these thoughts, concepts and practices to corners, doorways, hallways and stairs. As we progress through this series of articles, always fall back on the commonalities of tactics while addressing all of these problems. Three things determine the outcome of all conflict. They are communications, communicating with the threat and among ourselves. Movement, moving to or away from the threat based on what the task at hand is. The last one is shooting. If you must shoot you must without question shoot well, or well enough to win. Worn out adages like "he's so close I can't miss," must be replaced with logical thought and wise application like "he's so close I'd better not miss." It is often to your advantage to maximize the distance and minimize yourself as a possible target. Wisely use available cover and concealment and know the difference between the two. Train on and dominate the ground where you live.

Next month we'll address doorways. In the mean time remember you have the rest of your life to solve your tactical problem. How long your life lasts may depend on how well you solve your problem.



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THE BEST LOAD MYTH

Your gun will tell you what it likes.

In my journeys through gun shows and shooting matches, the most common—and at the same time most perplexing question—I am asked is, “What’s the best load for my ... (insert any cartridge or caliber here)?” When younger, in my ignorance, I would try to answer that question.

For example I would tell people that my favorite load for, say, the .308 Winchester was X grains of IMR 3031 under any 150-grain bullet. Or, that my favorite .30-06 load was Y grains of IMR 4350 under the same bullets. Or that when loading the .44 Special I used 5.3 grains of Winchester 231 with 245- to 250-grain roundnose bullets because it was a factory duplication load, and usually shot to point of aim in fixed sight revolvers.

However, experience brought some wisdom. For instance, I discovered that some reloading manuals list my .308 and .30-06 loads right at maximum or even over maximum. So I learned not to tell people to use them without working up from starting loads. Once when I recommended the above .44 Special load to a fellow he rather haughtily replied, “All my .44 Specials have adjustable sights, and your load is puny, and roundnose bullets won’t stop anything!” He told me!

OK, now in my senior citizen years I am smarter. So when anyone asks me, “What’s the best load ... ?” I always answer, “Damiflknow!” Then when they look at me like I’m being a wise-ass I tell them that is the honest truth. There are so many variables in both guns and reloading components that no one can tell you what any caliber or particular firearm will shoot well. But I always try to sooth ruffled feathers by then saying, “But, your gun will tell you what it likes.”

And it will. All you have to do is shoot it. Preferably on paper. Here’s what I do. A variety of suitable powders, primers, and bullets are stocked up. Then, by consulting a good reloading manual, safe powder charges are chosen. Don’t get stuck in the maximum load syndrome. Usually I just pick a charge that will give velocities equivalent with factory ammo. (If you need more power get a bigger gun.) Each powder is loaded with each bullet and then shot from that gun on paper from sandbag rest.

Somewhere in those handload combinations there will be one or more that group tighter than the others. Then more of that one are loaded and tried again



The best way to determine a good load for a rifle is to fire it from a sandbag rest.



It's a good idea to test fire a load at extended ranges to determine exactly how it performs.

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a time or two. If those latter groups are suitable then a good load has been found. And don't get hung up on a single distance. If the firearm will be used say for big-game hunting then try it at various ranges. Here's a for instance. Recently I was working with cast bullets in my Kimber Pro Carry 1911 .40 S&W. A charge of 4.4 grains of Bullseye consistently printed groups under 1.50" at 25 yards with all four of the cast bullet designs tried. And, 4.6 grains of Winchester 231 would do likewise. The four bullets were 170- to 180-grain flat noses or semiwadcutters from several Lyman and RCBS moulds and from Laser Cast Company. Overall the best bullet was the RCBS 40-180 CAS ostensibly meant for the .38-40.



To work up a good load, stock up on suitable components. These are for the .45-70.

Did I find the best load for that Kimber? Naw! I could probably shoot that Kimber until the barrel was worn out and never happen on the "best load." What I did find were several darn good ones that were more than adequate for my purposes. They will all group tighter than I can when holding that gun in my own two hands and standing on my own two feet.

The "best load" is a myth. Not only that but unless a world class shooter is operating the gun it is also unnecessary. In the field most of us can't tell the difference between a "good" load and a "great" one. And I include myself there. Anyone who sees lots of people shooting handloads will tell you they see lots of functioning problems and lots of people who don't shoot well, but hardly ever encounter someone's gun or ammunition not delivering enough accuracy needed for the job at hand.

What I usually encounter is not someone needing the "best load" handed to them, but someone needing to get out to shoot more often. Then they will learn the feel of whatever gun is in question. They will learn to manipulate it smoothly. They'll learn to break the trigger clean, or call flyers if they don't. They will also learn any idiosyncrasies that gun may have—such as a hunting rifle whose first shot from a cold barrel is wide of the group. What I see is that those who shoot most often, most often shoot the best.



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FOUR-IN-ONE RIFLES

A great way to explore the new world of rimfires.



Imagine the flexibility of being able to shoot four major rimfire cartridges with a simple 77/22 barrel change.

Here's an exciting new development that will warm the hearts of many a rimfire rifleman. Have you ever considered that the .22 LR, .22 Win Mag, .17 HRM, and the .17 Mach 2 might all be digested by one action fitted with four interchangeable barrels? It's here — the 4-in-1 switch-barrel rimfire rifle is busting out all over the 2005 scene.

Debuting at the SHOT Show was a tricked-out, four-barrel, cased set manufactured by Sako. With a suggested retail

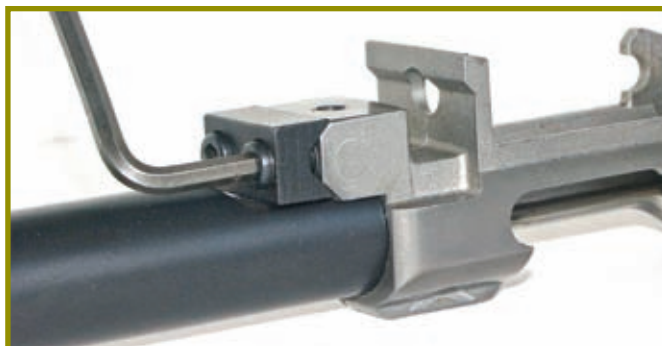
price of \$1,739, it won't be everyone's gun, but it was intriguing. It's a bolt action repeater mounted with a new, four-zero, four-trajectory scope by Burris. To keep things sorted out, the barrels and the elevation and windage adjustment rings on the scope are color-coded. So when you mount the "blue" barrel (let's say it's a .17 HMR), you zero your scope with the "blue" rings, and you're off and running, that is, if you have the dough in the first place. The most promising side of this deal is that Burris

will be selling the multi-trajectory rimfire scopes separately. Stay tuned!

Another solution seen at the SHOT Show in the prototype stage was a four-barrel set mated with a redesigned AR-7 type semiauto action. Made by Majestic Arms, this semi-auto solution is priced at \$399 with one barrel and extra barrels cost \$259. The only hang-up with semiautos is the .17 Mach 2 has higher bolt velocity and you need to buy a special bolt-barrel-magazine combo for \$299.



An interesting feature of Clerke's .22 LR and .17 Mach 2 barrels is this headspace compensating ring at the chamber.



Changing barrels on Ruger's 77/22 is simply a matter of removing two Allen screws, the barrel retaining block and slipping the barrel out of the receiver.

Now if the foregoing prices bring on a fit of melancholy, do not despair. There is a third solution, and I've been working with it for the last six months.

Does the name Bo Clerke conjure up any images? It should because Bo Clerke is one of those gunmaking geniuses who has developed everything from the original 30mm chain gun for the Apache helicopter and the 25mm chain gun for the Bradley fighting vehicle to spirit level target sights and picked-up a room full of national high-power shooting awards along the way. Now located in Raton, NM, his firm, Clerke International Arms, is a major OEM manufacturer of 17- and 22-caliber barrels.

The nice thing about Clerke is that he sells his interchangeable target quality barrels directly to our rimfire shooting clan and, priced from \$123.50, they're very affordable.

The platform that Clerke has designed his switch-barrel concept around is Ruger's 77/22 magnum. I've hunted a lot with the .22 Win Mag, even using it for small African antelope. If there ever were a more ideal .22 Win Mag than Ruger's 77/22 Varmint model in low glare stainless steel with its brown laminated stock, I have yet to see it. Right-out-of-the-box, my Ruger has always shot like a house

afire. The only improvement I ever made was to rework the trigger a bit.

The Mag's A Must

Why does Clerke specify the rimfire magnum version of the 77/22? This is a case where a duck is not a duck. If you take a caliper and a handful of .22 LR, .22 Win Mag, .17 WMR, and .17 Mach 2 cartridges, you will discover some interesting facts.

The rim diameter of a .22 LR and a .17 Mach 2 measures + or - .275", but the rims of the .22 Win Mag and the .17 HMR measure + or - .290".

The rim thickness of the .22 LR and .17 Mach 2 measures + or - .044" while that of the .22 Win Mag and .17 HMR measures + or - .049".

Even the case body diameters are different with the .22 LR and .17 Mach 2 running .225" while the .22 Win Mag and .17 HRM measure .240".

And of course there is a considerable difference in overall length between the two case families.

When using the 77/22 rimfire magnum action, the bolt face will accommodate both rim diameters and, by changing magazines, the action will feed both case lengths.

Changing Barrels

Switching barrels on a 77/22 is straightforward, requiring you to unscrew

two Allen screws securing the barrel retaining block, slide the barrel out and slip a new one in.

The .22 LR and .17 Mach 2 barrels also require the use of Ruger's standard .22 LR magazines. To switch between the magnum and the standard magazines, you must replace the magazine latch plunger — a little \$12 part from Clerke.

Another feature of the .22 LR and .17 Mach 2 Clerke barrels is a raised ring of metal around the chamber that compensates for the difference in rim thickness (headspace) when using the magnum bolt.

Do you need 4 barrels? Maybe not. But you need at least two — a 17- and a 22-caliber to wring the best out of your 77/22. You could just add a .17 Mach 2 barrel to your standard 77/22 in .22 LR or add a .17 HMR barrel to your 77/22 in .22 Win Mag. The options are many.

Clerke currently offers chrome moly and stainless steel switch barrels for the Ruger 77/22 in either a tapered or a fluted configuration. In addition, for all of us Ruger 10/22 owners, Clerke is starting production of a solid tungsten bolt and a .17 Mach 2 barrel for the world's favorite little semiauto.

Accuracy of all three of my Clerke 77/22 barrels is minute or sub-minute-of-angle out to 100 yards. In the rimfire and small game hunting world, it just doesn't get any better than that.



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THE .30-30 WINCHESTER

Millions of guns have millions of deer.

If you were to claim that more deer have been killed with the .30-30 WCF than any other cartridge you'd get no argument from me. And I'd only fuss a little bit if you said that all other cartridges combined. Such is the popularity of the .30-30.

The .30-30 (also .30 WCF for Winchester Centerfire) was the first to use the then new smokeless powder. In keeping with naming conventions established long before, the first number was the caliber and the second the powder charge, although this time it was in grains of smokeless. It thrived largely because of the Winchester Model 1894 lever action, which is still manufactured, still popular and entirely serviceable for deer and black bear hunters in the east well over 100 years later.

The 94 really was a breakthrough because it allowed loads with considerably higher pressures than those used in the Model 92 while keeping the compact size that made the 92 so handy. The cartridges were just as important for there was a herd of WCFs I call the dash cartridges. Even though it would be perfectly proper to say to a clerk that you want some ".30 WCFs" you might not be understood. Say thutty-thutty and everyone knows. I don't know why that is either, but it is true of the entire family of rimmed cartridges.

The Children

The .30-30 quickly begat the .25-35 and .32 Winchester Special. They couldn't use .25 WCF or .32 WCF since they already had those. The competitive world didn't let them rest on their laurels either. Remington came along with the Model 14 pump-action rifles some say was truly superior to the lever action. With it came a set of homologous cartridges (.25 Remington, .30 Remington, .32 Remington) that were identical to the Winchesters except for the rim.

Basically there are two bullet weights available for factory ammo and all the major makers have them. 150- or 170-grain loads with a wide variety of bullets (Corelokt, Power Point, Silvertip (to name some) are loaded to 2,390 or 2,200 feet per second, respectively. Test barrel results are obtained from 24" barrels, but since most current rifles have 20" or 22" barrel velocities will be a bit different. The SAAMI maximum pressure for the .30-30 is 38,000 CUP or 42,000 psi. The



More than 100 years later the .30-30 still plugs along. Both Marlin and Winchester have produced millions of .30-30s during that time.

former units were obtained from copper crushers and the latter — which are actual psi — from newer transducer equipment.

Myth Busters

The .30-30 brings with it some mythology and also brands as an outright lie the popular statement that you must have high velocity to kill deer. Need I mention again how many deer it takes every year? One of the myths is that the cartridge is inaccurate. While it is surely true that we don't get benchrest accuracy, lever-action rifles aren't noted for that. It has also been said that roundnose bullets aren't accurate. I recall reading an article in *The American Rifleman* many years ago where that claim was tested and proven untrue. Likewise the cartridge itself was shown to be nicely accurate from a test barrel. Somewhere back in the '70s I briefly owned a Remington Model 788 bolt action chambered for the .30-30. And while that was long before I began keeping meticulous records my recollection is minute of angle accuracy was no problem with good loads.

I guess the real question becomes whether or not the guy who takes a limit of deer with one box of ammo needs to consider reloading. Quite a few years ago I set out to conquer worlds and

invent wheels in an attempt to improve the performance of the cartridge. I had a new Oehler Model 43 and rigged up an old Marlin 336 to measure pressure. My thought was that some of the new high-energy powders would make it possible to blast the .30-30 into at least the 20th Century.

One of the things I learned in all those college lab classes is that negative information is just as important as positive and I sure could have saved myself a lot of time had I just accepted defeat gracefully after a few tries but no, I kept plugging away. I did find a couple of combinations that gained 50 to 100 fps, but every one did so at the expense of a busted pressure limit.

Versatility

Even though most folks don't think of it that way, the .30-30 is pretty versatile. It is a dandy fun gun when loaded with Speer 100-grain Plinkers and it can also use 110- or 115-grain bullets typically used in the .30 Carbine. But one of my favorites was the 130-grain Speer softpoint. Lots of kids do their first deer hunting with a .30-30 and the lighter recoil of a 2,400-fps load is perfectly fine for them and will still take deer cleanly.

If you look at some old manuals, it seems as if IMR 3031 was the clear favorite — it is still a good choice — but I found that Winchester 748 gives a little more speed with the heavier bullets and has the added advantage of working really well in a number of other medium capacity cases. But one thing I learned for sure is the .30-30 doesn't have great hotrod potential.

The immediate success of the .30-30 prompted Remington to create a rimless version — the .30 Remington — for use in the Model 14 pump and Model 8 self-loading rifles.





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CZ 452 Scout cal. .22 LR

CZ 452 Varmint cal. .22 LR, .22 WMR, .17 HMR, .17 HM2

SHARPENING 101

How to become a sharp operator.

Knife sharpening isn't some unfathomable mystery akin to brain surgery, yet a surprising number of people lack confidence in their ability to put a good edge on a blade. Most of us learned this simple skill from our fathers, but we need to remember some never had that opportunity. Why not a quick review?

Let's presume we're using a simple bench stone. You'll be money ahead if you secure that stone in some manner. Mine sits in a shallow wooden tray clamped in my bench vise. A non-slip mat is another possibility.

Most stones require the use of oil to float the abraded steel particles and prevent clogging the open grain of the abrasive. Any light gun oil will do fine. Slather on a little oil, rest the knife against the stone at the proper angle and let's go. How do you determine and maintain the proper angle?

The \$64,000 Question

That little question is what raises beads of sweat on the brows of those who take this task too seriously. It's also the rationale behind all the dozens of different patent knife sharpeners sold around the world. The truth is that your knife will show you the correct sharpening angle if you'll only look and feel.

Rest your blade nearly flat against the stone then slowly raise the spine. There, feel that? If you have fine tactile senses, you'll feel it when the edge bevel is brought into contact with the stone. Didn't feel it? No problem. Angle the blade against the stone until you think you're contacting the edge bevel, then push the blade lightly along as if you were trying to slice off a paper-thin wafer of stone.

Wipe the oil from the blade and look at the edge. You'll see the fresh scratches left by the stone. Use magnification if you need it, and if you still can't see, paint the edge bevel with a black marker before trying again.

Ideally, we want to see these scratches the full width of the existing edge bevel. If we've abraded up on the blade above the edge bevel, we need to lift the spine of the blade higher next time. Scuffing only at the very edge and not cutting the full edge bevel? Drop the spine a little to correct.

Once you've established the correct angle, it's only a matter of "memorizing" it with the muscles of your hand and arm and paying attention as you sharpen. Be



The Spyderco Sharpmaker may look like an antenna array from the Mars rover, but it's a superior tool.



Above: A piece of non-slip mat will hold that stone in place, permitting both hands on the knife for better control.



A 400-grit soft muslin wheel and a light touch is one way to keep those serrations sharp.



A pocket-size diamond sharpener like this one from DMT is perfect for touching up edges in camp.

aware that a blade with a high point (such as a skinning blade) will require you to lift the handle slightly to follow the edge as you slice along the stone.

You can maintain this correct angle more easily if you use both hands on the blade, which is why we secured the stone. Another tip, if you have a badly dulled edge, is to feel for the correct angle, then take perhaps 15 careful strokes against one side before flipping the knife over and repeating. This helps achieve a more uniform edge bevel.

How do you know when you're done? First, look straight down on the edge in good light. A sharp edge is invisible. If you note a tiny reflection here or there (caused by nicks or flat spots), you need to keep going.

When you can see no light reflected off the edge you're ready to finish up. Place your thumb lightly on the blade and brush past the edge. Do this on both sides. There, feel that? If it feels as if the very edge is bent over on one side of the blade, that's because it actually is.

This is the "wire edge," and it's further proof you've done a good sharpening job. This wire edge may be extremely sharp, but it has no strength and must be removed. We'll do that by stropping, which work hardens this tiny filament and breaks it off.

Drag the edge backwards (opposite your sharpening direction) on a piece of leather, alternating blade sides. Check again to ensure the wire edge has disappeared.



Old-fashioned combination oilstone will do, but a good natural "Arkansas" whetstone is far better. Japanese water stones produce a wonderful edge, but they're messy and inconvenient.

If you want the fastest, easiest way to put on a razor edge, pick up a Spyderco Sharpmaker with the the optional diamond stones, too. The Sharpmaker is simple and incredibly fast to use, sharpens everything from fishhooks to serrated edges and stows away compactly.

That Pesky Wavy Edge

Partially serrated blades, along with the pocket clip and the thumb hole or blade stud, are the three biggest advancements in folding knife "technology" to appear in my lifetime. I like partial serrations for a heavily used work knife, but what about sharpening them?

The Sharpmaker does a fair job and many manufacturers recommend Spyderco's tool. But unlike a plain edge,

it's just not possible to return a serrated edge to factory-level sharpness. The better approach is to preserve the factory edge.

First, unless you've really damaged a serrated edge, *don't sharpen it!* Almost everything we do will make it worse, not better. Also, one of the primary benefits of the serrated edge is it will still cut aggressively even when relatively dull.

Buffing the back, or flat side of the serrations ever so lightly will refresh the edge. Use 400-grit compound and a very light touch. Knives and buffers are a dangerous combination — pay attention and hold the edge down and below the centerline of the wheel.

Lacking a buffer, you can use a fine diamond stone on that back side, just be sure to leave the surface flat — don't induce a bevel or you'll dull the points of the serrations.

By the way, a diamond hone is the ideal tool for sharpening in camp. I like the fold-open variety — the cover then becomes a handle. These great tools require no messy oil, will sharpen everything from the smallest knife blade to the camp axe, and they weigh practically nothing.

All the old Scout manuals cautioned that a sharp edge is safer than a dull one. That's true. It's a pleasure to use a really sharp knife, and it's satisfying to know how to put on a good edge. If you've been reluctant to tackle this simple chore, dive in — you'll be an "old hand" in no time!



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RUGER KP345

A nice clean, handy, ergonomic pistol.

The Ruger KP345 points well and shoots easy.



Ruger went big bore in 1990 with the .45 ACP P90. It always worked no matter what type of .45 ACP ammunition was stuffed in its magazine. I liked it. Then I read what that old pistolero, Col. Askins, said about the P90 and I liked it even more. Askins, with both a military career and Border Patrol duty, definitely knew and understood fighting handguns, having worked his way over the years through the Colt New Service, the S&W .357 Magnum, and the S&W Model 39. He flat-out declared the Ruger P90 as the best semiautomatic .45 ever produced. He was sure right when it came to function, and it is certainly an accurate shooting pistol, but due to its largeness, more difficult to conceal than most.

Ruger certainly understood this last point as they began downsizing the P90. Several modifications led to the latest Ruger .45 — the KP345 — which has all the positive functioning qualities of the original P90 along with an A+ for form. It has been slimmed, given a grip frame much easier to hold on to, made lighter with a polymer frame and offered with an optional Picatinny rail. If one were to set a course to build the perfect double-action semiautomatic with both high concealment and easy shooting qualities, the KP345 could well be the result. This nine-shot, double-action .45 ACP from Ruger with a stainless steel slide and polymer grip frame greatly reduced in size results in a comparatively soft shooting gun. It fits well in the hand, holster or waist belt for that matter, feels good, felt recoil is relatively light, and it shoots where it points.

In addition, the KP345 receives high marks when it comes to safety. Ruger has done

everything possible to make this an effective and safe firearm. One safety feature is a "loaded chamber indicator." When the chamber is empty the indicator is flush with the top of the slide and, when a round is chambered, the front end of the indicator sticks up slightly with a red dot showing on each side. Personally, I do not find this objectionable at all and it may prevent many negligent discharges.

The KP345's magazine disconnect only allows the gun to fire if a magazine is inserted. Whiners and complainers abound when it comes to internal locking devices, however in today's society, they are virtually mandated and we either get used to it or content ourselves with purchasing older, used firearms. If we have to have internal locks on new firearms — and we do — Ruger has come up with the best way I have yet seen to conceal the internal locking device by having it tied in — actually almost hidden — by the manual safety. When the manual safety is in the "On" position, a small hole on the right side reveals the access which allows the mechanism to be locked using a special key provided by Ruger and preventing



Ruger's KP345PR comes with an integral Picatinny rail for use with Streamlight's Tactical Illuminator.



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OVERALL LENGTH: 7.400"

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- Comes equipped with a STRIKE-compatible multi-position ballistic nylon sheath with a molded thermoplastic protective insert
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THE NIGHTWING

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OVERALL LENGTH: 10.900"



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operation. Since we must have such things if firearms manufacturers are going to be able to sell in a wide market, this is an excellent way to do it.

The KP345 also has an ambidextrous manual safety operated easily with the thumb. Push it down for "Safe" and up for "Fire." As with all Ruger double-action semiautomatics, the KP345 is a double action first shot with all subsequent shots fired single action. The first shot may also be fired single action style by manually cocking the hammer. When the safety is in the "On" position, the hammer cannot be cocked and pulling the trigger will not operate the action.

KP345PR

Maker: Sturm, Ruger
200 Ruger Road
Prescott AZ 86301
(928) 541-8820, www.ruger.com.

Light Maker: Streamlight
30 Eagleville Road
Eagleville PA 19403
(800) 523-7488, www.streamlight.com.

ACTION TYPE:	Locked breech semiauto
CALIBER:	.45 ACP
CAPACITY:	8+1
BARREL LENGTH:	4 1/4"
OVERALL LENGTH:	7 1/2"
WEIGHT:	29 ounces
FINISH:	Stainless steel
SIGHTS:	Fixed, 3-dot
GRIPS:	Integral with polymer frame
Price:	\$540

Sights on the KP345 are excellent with a very easy-to-see 3-dot system. The rear is a square notch mated up with a square post front and both front and rear sights are fitted in a dovetails and adjustable for windage. Bullet weights from 185 to 230 grains were fired at combat distances with elevation being right on for all practical purposes. There are two versions, the standard KP345 and the KP345PR.

PR stands for Picatinny Rail meaning it is designed to accept a most valuable accessory — a Streamlight X-Treme Series Model 6X Tactical Illuminator, which attaches to the front of the Ruger P345. When mounted on the pistol it is possible use in several ways for low light or no light situations. On the bottom of the Streamlight M6X are four settings, OFF, VIS, ILL, ILL VIS. The first setting, "VIS," provides a red dot laser sight. "ILL" is the flashlight while the last setting provides both a flashlight and a red dot. The combination of both a light and a red dot really increases the nighttime handiness of the KP345 as a self-defensive firearm. The KP345 is also available as a P345 with a blue-steel slide instead of stainless.

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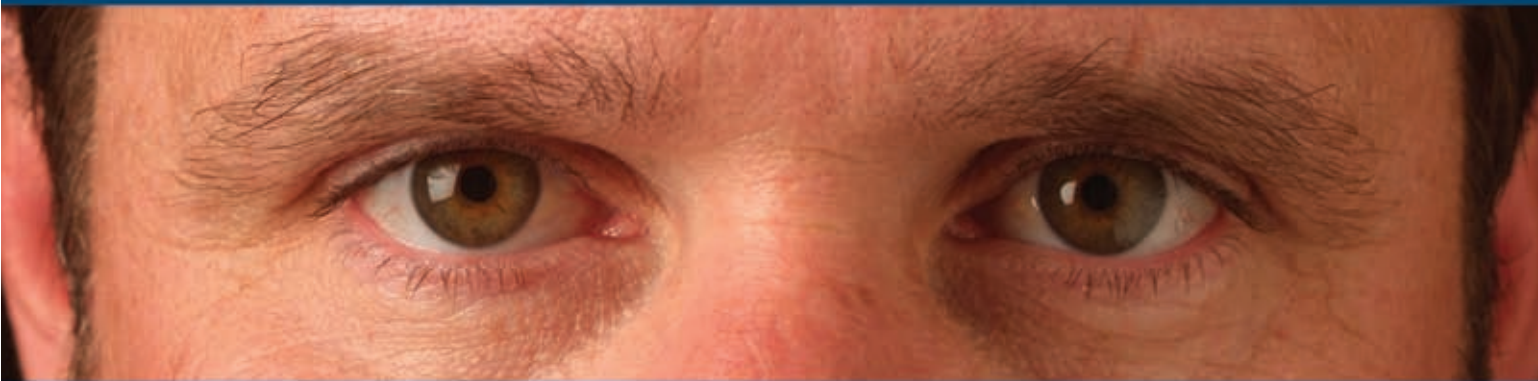
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KIMBER VALIER

A Classy SxS Shotgun.

Many years ago on my first trip to London, one objective was to visit one or more of the shops of the fine gunmakers. I had always admired the classic British double gun and wanted, someday, to own one. So on a rainy March morning I entered the shop of Holland & Holland. The walls were lined with riches. I wandered slowly, touching nothing, and in a few minutes a very proper spit-shined man — dressed as the movies portray the proper English butler — approached me. Perhaps it was because my mac was from Bean not Barbour or that I arrived in a taxi instead of a Bentley or perhaps my dulcet southern accent gave me away but his words sting as much today as they did in 1984. “We have nothing for you,” and I could tell that it was a struggle for him to add, “sir.”

I bet you can guess how deeply hell will be frozen over before I darken that door again. Of course there are other fine makers who could have met my wants but the desire was gone. Now along comes Kimber with a truly classic side-by-side game gun. It's a 20 gauge with a sleek straight stock of stunning Turkish walnut and real detachable seven-pin sidelocks. Side-by shotguns have three basic types of firing mechanism: boxlock — the most common — boxlock with detachable side plates and hand-detachable sidelocks, the tweediest of all. A boxlock has the firing mechanism entirely within the stock and is often covered by wood. Detachable side plates provide a nice surface for embellishment but have no other function save to cover stuff. A true sidelock has all of the lockwork including the sear, hammer and springs on a plate that can be removed for cleaning, usually with a single screw.

I'm sure the boss didn't know about that long ago experience but he did know about my passion for the type of hunting best suited for this gun — bobwhite quail. That is the only type of hunting that will make me drop everything and hit the road. I am very much my grandfather's boy, for I inherited a love of cornfields and bird dogs that is his greatest gift to me. The location was Buck Ridge Plantation just outside of Orangeburg, South Carolina. They have 8,000 acres full of deer, turkeys, pheasant and, of course, Mr. Bobwhite. On a sunny morning a pair of pointers named Ergal

and Babe joined a Brittany named Mack and guide Ben Dempsey to take me out to fulfill my appointed task. We hit the field shortly after 8:00 in the morning and in a few minutes Babe froze in the classic style of the pointer. Both guys honored her point. We walked up and two birds erupted from the sorghum patch. They went in opposite directions. I swung hard right and the gun went off when things looked good. Sure enough the first shot dusted a plump cockbird at about 20 yards. I'd love to say that I never missed, and anybody

who has ever watched quail fly would know I was lying, but the gun handled beautifully and came up to my eye as if it had been custom fitted.

The day had far more hits than misses and the Kimber carried effortlessly as we trudged up and down Buckridge's carefully prepared food plots. Ergal the pointer was only a year old and he moved with a stylish grace that heralds the beginning of a great bird dog.

Classic sidelock guns almost always have double triggers and offer barrel selection by the one you use first. The rear trigger fires the left barrel, which is almost always the one with the most open choke, in this case improved cylinder. The front trigger is articulated to move forward a little when the gun recoils and then you move your finger forward for the right modified barrel. To maintain the classic lines and light weight the Valier dispenses with screw-in chokes. You may have any choke you wish as long as it is improved or modified.

The guns are made in Huglu, Turkey, in a small town that follows the guild tradition of gunmaking as established in Ferlach, Austria, Liege, Belgium or the Eibar region of Spain. Turkey produces



Buck Ridge maintains a large kennel with some excellent bird dogs. Ergal, a year old pointer, was Charlie's favorite because of his hard work and classy style.



Detachable sidelocks must be perfectly fitted to both metal and wood. The seven pins that make these so distinctive are actually screws that hold the lock parts onto the side plate. The lock inletting is also just as beautiful.



The first two shots fired by the Kimber Valier brought down a pair of bobwhites.

some truly spectacular wood and they have a long history of gunmaking as well.

In a way, shooting this gun is just a bonus because you really can spend lots of time just looking at it. There is much to see. The fit of wood to metal is precise and this is especially difficult with a sidelock gun where one portion of the lock must fit the receiver while the back is supported only by walnut. A single long screw topped with a blued lever goes from left to right but you can take it all the way out and the locks won't budge. With

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the screw loose though you can gently push on it and move the right lock enough to lift it out. The first time I did this — and I really knew what to expect — was still a dazzling sight. The inside is every bit as well finished as the out. The entire plate is jeweled and the lockwork polished in the white. Only the hammer has a lustrous nitre blue finish. Once more the precision is plain to see.

It is hard to say which is more

VALIER SIDE-BY-SIDE

Maker: Turkish
Importer: Kimber Mfg
1 Lawton St. Yonkers, NY 10705
(888) 243-2223, www.kimbermfg.com

ACTION TYPE: Detachable sidelock,
top lever break open

GAUGE: 20 gauge 3"

CHOKE: Fixed, Improved cylinder
and modified

CAPACITY: 2

BARREL LENGTH: 26" or 28"

LENGTH OF PULL: 14 3/4"

FINISH: Rust blued barrels,
case hardened receiver

SIGHTS: White bead front

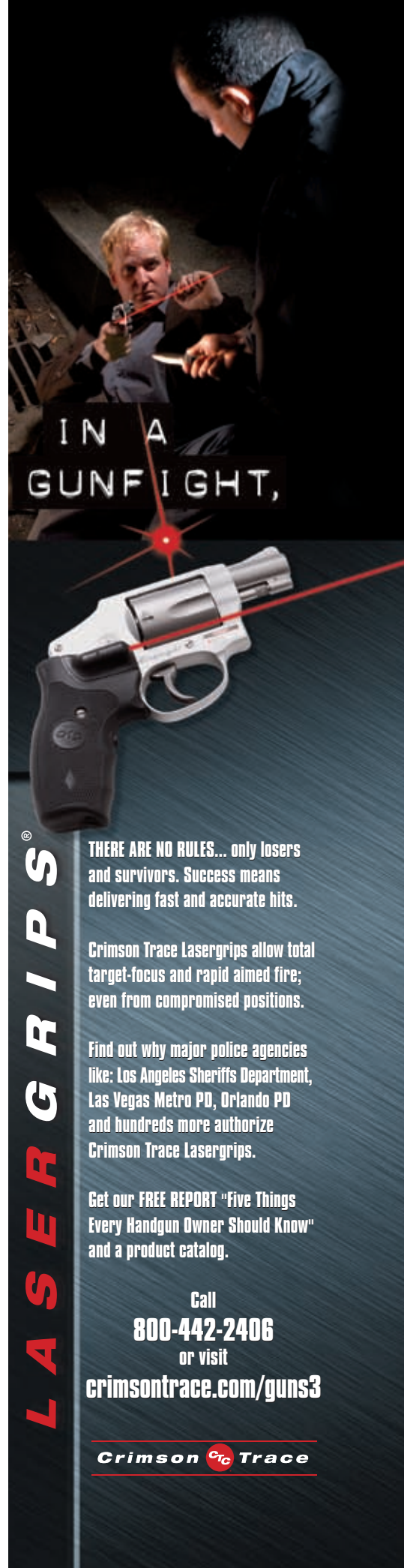
STOCK: Turkish walnut

PRICE: \$3,879 (Grade I),
\$4,480 (Grade II)

appealing. The case hardened receiver has delicate scroll engraving that almost covers it and the rust blued barrels have the deep lustre you see only after many cycles of rust and rub with fine steel wool. But the stock simply screams, "Look at me. I am beautiful!" It is, too. Turkish walnut has that gorgeous range of color from a very pale tan right up to pitch black and no two pieces ever seem to be alike. Kimber is using only Grade IV blanks but even so they show a diversity of figure and color that makes me drool. They receive 30 coats of hand rubbed oil that take days and days to apply. Instead of a pad, the butt is simply checkered. It comes to my shoulder smoothly and does not slip. Sadly, the stock is the only place to find a small gripe. The checkering has a few incomplete diamonds you can see only if you look hard. I almost feel guilty mentioning it.

By now you may be thinking that only princes and kings could buy this gun. If you do, then I've done my job well, but there is much good news. There are two grades, I and II which retail for \$3,879 and \$4,480 respectively. Both have grade IV Turkish walnut and color casehardened receivers nicely covered with scroll engraving. All are 3" 20 gauge and you may have a choice of either 26" or 28" barrels in either grade. The Grade I gun has extractors while the Grade II has ejectors. Actually, the mechanism needed to have selective automatic ejectors is a bit complicated and justifies the increase in price.

Any time I find myself truly smitten by a gun I have to guard against gushy writing because I know everyone will not share my enthusiasm. Shame on them.



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COLT 1903 REDUX

Some Dead Horses Aren't.

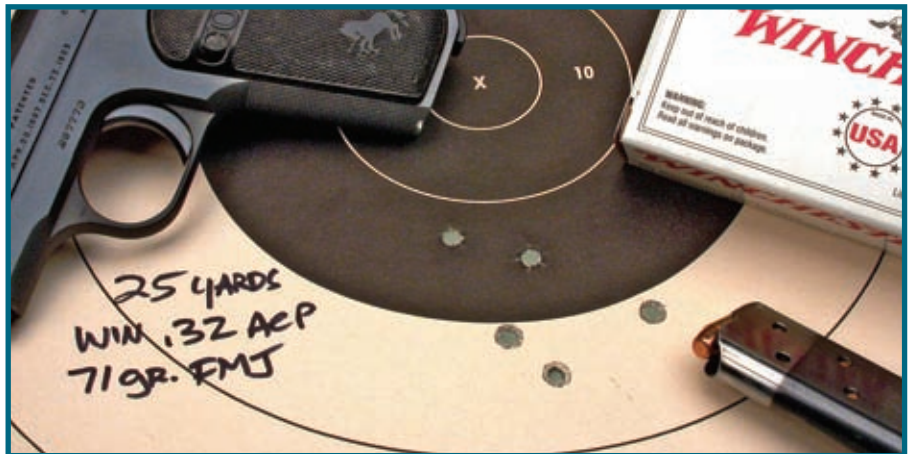
Some guns are timeless in design and function. The Colt 1911 is the foremost example, yet I've always thought the Colt 1903 Pocket was too. It hasn't been made since WWII, but Colt did make 572,215 1903 .32s and 138,009 1908 .380s before shelving the design. Although many of these guns are highly desirable collector's items and should be left in their existing state, there are many more rusting away with little or no finish and pitted outer metal still able to perform yeoman duty as a defensive gun.

The Colt's benefits include a flat, concealable shape and very reliable single-action mechanism with an enclosed hammer. The small, flat shape and rounded slide allows for a smooth draw and is just as concealable and easier to shoot than many contemporary pocket pistols. Most examples I've shot have been quite accurate, too, if you take your time and align the sights. Its key drawback is puny sights almost unusable by anyone with moderately poor or aging eyes.

Retired LAPD sergeant Chris Biller has always thought highly of the 1903, too. He's long been enamored of the design and its handling qualities and has quite a few exceptional examples in his collection. As owner of Greta's Guns in Simi Valley, California, he also has the opportunity to pick up the occasional



Above: It took little to bring the Colt 1903 forward into the 21st Century. The addition of night sights alone was enough. Below: This little gun shoots as attested by this 25-yard 2" group. Winchester's new "Improved Accuracy Bullet" is the real deal.



Fine checkering keeps the frontstrap slip free, although the .32 ACP doesn't jump around much. Tru-Dot tritium night sights grace the slide. The thumb and grip safety are more than many autos have today. The front sight is neatly dovetailed into the slide. The forward slide serrations add a 21st century touch.

"beater." Biller decided he'd like to pack one of these little guns and, as guns with little or no collector interest accumulated, he decided to improve the shootability of one for himself.

In conjunction with gunsmith Dean Wilkerson, Biller added a diminutive set of Tru-Dot 3-dot tritium night sights (the front neatly dovetailed into the slide), forward cocking serrations matching the rear serrations and checkered the front-strap. The gun was bead blasted around the top of the slide and bottom of the frame and the flats were given a nice, even polish before bluing. A good set of reproduction hard rubber grips rounds out the package. A nice retro touch is the top inch or so of the magazine was left in the white, as were the early Colt's. The resulting gun generated quite a bit of interest among Biller's customers and a cottage industry was born. This version is called the Mk I and the first Mk II featuring more snag-free Novak-style sights has been completed. Wilkerson had a tough time finding sights to fit on the slide, considering how the limited dovetail space is underneath.

Accurate Lil' Pipsqueak

I knew the .32 ACP was an accurate round and the 1903 could shoot, but what a surprise it was to see how well this little gun did with a decent set of sights. During a 100-round ses-

1903 Pocket	
Maker: Colt Pt. Firearms, Hartford, CT (no longer in production) Customized by: Greta's Guns 1224 Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93065 (805) 520-4867, www.gretasguns.com	
CUSTOM WORK:	Night sights; checkered frontstrap; forward slide serrations; sandblast edges, polish flats and blue
ACTION TYPE:	Blowback semiautomatic
CALIBER:	.32 ACP
CAPACITY:	8+1
BARREL LENGTH:	3¾"
OVERALL LENGTH:	6⅝"
WEIGHT:	1 pound 7 ½ ounces
WIDTH:	1" (through the grips)
HEIGHT:	4½"
FINISH:	Blue
SIGHTS:	Fixed 3-dot tritium night sights
GRIPS:	Repro black plastic
BASE PRICE:	Your gun plus \$250; \$600 as shown

sion at the Angeles Shooting Ranges in Tujunga, California (800/499-4486, www.angelesranges.com), Winchester 71-grain FMJ flatnose ammo delivered a five-shot group of 2" with four shots going into 1½" at 25 yards from a rest. Winchester Silvertips were also tried, but delivered a larger group of 3½". The

60-grain load shot a little closer to point-of-aim, though. The FMJs shot almost a foot high, but the windage was right on. Considering the gun is generally going to be used at seven yards or a little more, this is outstanding accuracy.

A good mixed-fruit-pudding of eight hollowpoints and FMJs can be unloaded very quickly and accurately.

Characteristically, the little Colt ate the 100 rounds without a hiccup. Winchester has replaced the old roundnose FMJ with a flatnose bullet of the same shape. That should add a little better shock in time of need. Winchester touts this load as a having a new, "improved accuracy bullet." I'd say so. Many pooh-pooh the .32 ACP, but if you have arthritic hands or are recoil shy, it is certainly reasonably high in the better-than-fingernails class of cartridges. A good mixed-fruit-pudding of eight hollowpoints and FMJs can be unloaded very quickly and accurately. Biller doesn't feel undefended by the little gun and I don't think I'd feel undefended either, after seeing how well it delivers its pills. I certainly have the confidence I *could* deliver the goods with the upgraded features. 

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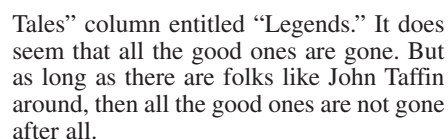


In a recent "Q&A column" Jeff John said the 1892 Marlin rifle could accommodate the .32 RF or the .32 S&W by using a trick firing pin. The correct centerfire cartridge to use in the .32 Marlin Model 1892 is not the .32 S&W, but the .32 Short or Long Colt, which used a heel-based bullet as did the .32 RF.

I stand corrected as this old catalog cut shows.—Jeff John.

Ruger's Hawks

Q: I enjoyed the article “Ruger’s Hawks” by John Taffin in the March issue. I wanted to ask about the Old Model Blackhawk pictured on page 61 that appears to be stainless steel. I know Ruger did not make a stainless Old Model, so what kind of finish is it? It really looks good, as do all the guns in the article. I also very much enjoyed Mr. Taffin’s “Campfire



Tim Perkins
Campbellsville, KY

A: Thanks for the kind words. The “stainless steel” .44 Blackhawk is actually a 7½” blued Super Blackhawk that was cut back to 4¾”, Mag-Na-Ported and finished in “Mag-Na-Loy” by Mag-Na-Port.—John Taffin

Derringers

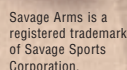
Q: I just received an interesting stainless steel double barrel derringer for Christmas. It is marked "Model 1" made by American Derringer. The gun is in a nice Dorskilc plastic case and included six .45 Colt shells and two .410 shells 2¾" long (Winchester 000 buck shot). The gun has never been fired that I can tell. Are the .410 shells what I have seen listed as 2¾"?

I found a Web site for American Derringer, but it looks like it is not up to date. The phone number listed for the store is not current. Is this company still in business?

I have seen a similar gun made by Bond Arms. Are these two companies related to each other in any way?

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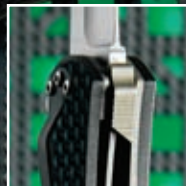
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A: The correct contact information is: American Derringer, (254) 799-9111, www.amderringer.com. The company is still in business and happily making derringers for sport and defense. The dimensions of all shotgun shells are measured from a fired hull. When you fire your 2 3/8" shell and measure it again, you'll find it is 2 3/4" long.

Bond Arms, (817) 573-4445, www.bondarms.com, is a different company. They, too, make over/under derringers to accommodate the .45 Colt/.410 shotshell as well models for sport and defense.

Single Six Woes

Q: I have a Ruger Single-Six in .32 H&R Mag. It is very aggravating trying to load and unload it when the cylinder turns too far then clicks and locks up and you can't turn it back to the right place. I recall reading in either GUNS or American Handgunner about a gunsmith who can change the timing of the Ruger single actions to make them easier to load and unload. Can you tell me who to send it to?

Ron Henarie
San Antonio, Texas

A: Power Custom, Inc., (573) 372-5684, www.powercustom.com, makes the Free Spin Pawl to allow the shooter to rotate the cylinder in either direction for easy reloading. It is activated by opening the loading gate and might require some gunsmithing. It is designed for Ruger Vaquero, Blackhawk, Super Blackhawk, some clones, and the Single-Six for \$34.95.

Another nifty Power Custom Ruger gizmo is the Single Action Hammer & Trigger Kit. The kit gives all New Model large-frame Blackhawks, Super Blackhawks and Vaqueros a 2 1/2- to 3-pound trigger pull. Better still, when on halfcock the chambers line up with the loading gate and makes Ruger Single Actions feel more like Colt Single Actions. Pull back the hammer and you'll hear and feel three positive clicks. The Wolff Spring Kit includes three different reduced power hammer springs (17, 18 and 19 pounds), a reduced power trigger spring, and one extra-power cylinder latch-pin spring. Minor modifications are required to some factory parts. The Ruger Single Action Hammer & Trigger Kit is available in blue for \$159.95 or stainless for \$179.95.



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THE TYPE 14 NAMBU

Great pistol but a lousy cartridge.

Like the Arisaka rifle, the Type 14 Nambu pistol has been the recipient of some of the most undeserved, uninformed gun bashing penned in the firearms field. Let me begin by pointing out the U.S. Ordnance Dept. tested the Nambu for accuracy following WWII and it outshot the Colt .45, the P-38 and the Tokarev.

Yes, the Nambu is rather unfamiliar looking, and it has its idiosyncrasies, but it points like an English setter, and it sports a trigger that approaches match quality.

Variations

Three distinct models of the Nambu pistol include the original and relatively rare “Papa” Nambu designed by Colonel Kijiro Nambu issued in 1904. It looks very similar to the later Type 14, but incorporates a grip safety, tangent rear sight (some had detachable shoulder stocks), single recoil spring and other less distinctive differences. It is chambered for the concurrently developed 8mm Nambu pistol round, a semi-rimless, bottleneck cartridge featuring a 102-grain FMJ bullet at 950-1,050 feet per second.

The second variation, one of the rarest of all military pistols, is the “Baby” Nambu. The Baby is a perfectly scaled down version of the “Papa” Nambu in every detail, chambered for a scaled down 7mm bottleneck cartridge launching a 56-grain FMJ at 800 fps. Little is known about the number produced or to whom it was issued other than to high ranking officers. Leithe, in his book, *Japanese Hand Guns*, observes that the Baby was



The 8mm Nambu (left) is a bottle-necked pistol cartridge, much like — but less powerful than — the 7.62 Tokarev (right).

Above: Imperial Japan fielded a great pistol — the Nambu Type 14. (Battle flag and samurai swords courtesy of Murphy's Gun Shop, Tucson, AZ)

personally selected by the Emperor to be his official presentation pistol. It was that special a design.

One of the interesting sidelights to the “Baby” Nambu story is that Bill Ruger had two in his personal collection. He copied the “Baby” concept, making two more, although both were in .22 rather than 7mm. Ruger considered his “Baby” Nambus too concealable and, before getting into the casting business, too expensive to produce by

conventional methods. Nevertheless, a picture of Ruger's prototype “Baby” appears on page 48 of Wilson's *Ruger & His Guns*.

And, who knows, while the inspiration for the overall look of the Ruger Mark I Automatic is normally associated with the Luger, there are more Nambu-like qualities lurking in Ruger's design such as the barrel and barrel extension, reciprocating bolt and grooved cocking piece.

The third variation of the Nambu is the common Type 14 brought home in large quantities by returning GIs. Brian Murphy's gunshop in Tucson recently had two Type 14's in nice condition priced from \$400 to \$450. It is estimated that approximately 272,000 or so Nambus

Below (left to right): Each Type 14 carries the month and year of its production on the frame. “18.7” indicates a date of July, 1943. The Type 14 sports an awkward safety that must be operated with the non-shooting hand. Turned toward the muzzle, it's “OFF.” Securing the lip of the follower in the magazine notch compresses the spring to facilitate loading. Late Type 14's feature a magazine retention spring that also releases the compressed magazine spring.



were produced at the Nagoya and Kokura arsenals, so they're not uncommon.

What's In A Name?

The Type 14 gets its name from a Japanese calendar system, which starts anew with the enthronement of every new Emperor. The Type 14 was officially adopted in 1925 — the 14th year of Emperor Taisho's reign that began in 1911. Taisho, by the way, was the father of Hirohito. The Japanese ideograms appearing on the left rear of the receiver translate into "14 Year Type."

The Type 14 is essentially a simpler and easier to manufacture Papa Nambu. It's still a 4.7" barreled recoil operated, locked breech, semiauto pistol, holds 8 rounds, weighs approximately two pounds. The Papa's grip safety was replaced by a frame-mounted safety lever above the trigger on the left side and Papa's single recoil spring and exterior milled spring housing was replaced by two recoil springs positioned internally riding in slots milled along either side of the bolt. The cocking piece, bolt lock and firing pin spring guide were also simplified.

One common misconception is the Type 14 is crudely made. The Type 14 pictured in this article with the Japanese flag inletted into its grip was made in July, 1943. Crude it isn't. With the exception of pistols manufactured during the last year or so of WWII, the Type 14 exhibits excellent workmanship, machining, fit and finish. Most Type 14's encountered are nicely polished and rust blued. Many examples exhibit straw hardening colors on the safety lever, trigger, sear and magazine release button. The serrated wooden grips are made of either mahogany or walnut.

Date The Nambu

Determining the production date of a Nambu is easy because the month and the year are stamped on the right rear of the frame. Illustrated is the date "18.7" preceded by an ideogram. The "18" signifies the 18th year of the Showa reign that began in 1925, so you must add 25 to the 18 which adds up to the year 1943. Simple, eh? The second digit "7" is the 7th month — July in this case — July, 1943.

Two variations of the Type 14 typically encountered are distinguished by their triggerguards. The earlier variation has a small triggerguard and generally lacks a magazine safety. After Japan's combat experience in the Chinese and Manchurian winters, the triggerguard was punched out to a generous glove size in 1939 and a magazine safety was added. The other difference is internal. The locking block of the earlier model is solid and mated with a long firing pin. The later locking block is grooved through for a shorter firing pin. The parts are not interchangeable.

Another intriguing variation and design found in later pistols is a magazine spring retention and release system. In use, the

DISASSEMBLY of NAMBU TYPE 14

Due to its excellent design and economy of parts, field stripping the Type 14 is simple and can be accomplished without tools. While you have it apart, I would suggest replacing the twin recoil springs and the striker spring with new springs from the W.C. Wolff Co.

1) Ensure the chamber and magazine is empty, the gun cocked, the safety off, and the magazine removed, push in on the striker spring guide (pin in the center of the cocking piece) and unscrew the cocking piece. Reassembly comment: Note the tear shaped stud on the shaft of the striker spring guide and the tear shaped hole in the cocking piece. They must be mated when screwing the cocking piece back on. 2) Shake out the striker spring guide, striker spring and striker. 3) Remove both grip panels by removing the retaining screw

and lifting up from the bottom of the panel to free it from under the frame. Push in the magazine release button when removing the left panel. 4) Place the muzzle down against a solid surface and push the barrel assembly back until it stops. Push in on the magazine release button and pull down on the trigger guard assembly until it's free of the frame. 5) Pull the barrel assembly forward and lift it up and off the frame. 6) Remove the bolt, locking block, and twin recoil springs from the barrel extension. 7) Reassemble in reverse order.



magazine follower button is depressed until a lip on the follower engages an open slot at the base of the magazine. Holding the magazine horizontally, you then slide 8 rounds of 8mm into the magazine. You're not fighting any magazine spring tension at all. Inserting the magazine back in the pistol, you squeeze the exposed leaf spring at the front of the grip, which releases the compressed magazine spring and follower. Pretty neat idea. It's the ultimate thumb saver.

That same frame-mounted spring also puts pressure on the magazine body, so that if the magazine release button is accidentally punched, the magazine will not drop all the way out.

One of the idiosyncrasies of the Type 14 is the magazine follower. It is the only mechanism holding the bolt open when the pistol is empty. Withdrawing the magazine allows the bolt to slam shut. I assume this design is a safety feature to insure that the chamber is left empty until the bolt is purposely manipulated after loading a fresh clip.

Sights And Such

The sights of the Type 14 offer a unique and interesting sight picture. The front sight is an inverted "V" dovetailed into an integral base at the muzzle and is adjustable for windage. The fixed rear sight is milled integral with the rear of the

frame. The notch is wide at the bottom and narrow at the top. The resulting sight picture is a bit odd, but it works. Very late in the war, the rear sight was changed to a simple square notch, and the magazine safety dispensed with.

The barrel and the barrel extension housing the bolt run inside the Nambu frame. The bolt is locked to the barrel extension by a swinging locking block attached to the underside of the barrel extension seated in place by a cam and spring arrangement. Upon firing, the barrel and barrel extension recoil slightly to the rear unlocking the block and permitting the bolt to continue rearward, ejecting the fired case and cocking the firing pin. The twin recoil springs on either side of the bolt return the bolt to battery, stripping off a fresh round into the chamber.

Danger!

Here's the rub. Like the German P-38, the Nambu can be assembled and fired without the locking block in place. Unless you love living dangerously, it's a bad and potentially dangerous thing to do. Like all surplus arms, the Nambu should be fieldstripped and inspected before taking it to the range. In the case of the Type 14, you can also check visually for the locking block by shining a flashlight into the rectangular slot just below the lanyard ring on the back of the frame. Ah, but if you've never seen a Nambu locking block before, how do you know what you're looking at? You don't. Fieldstrip it to be safe.

The Type 14 is an easy and pleasant pistol to shoot. The grip-to-frame angle makes it a natural pointer. In spite of its rather light barrel, the Nambu balances well because the mass of the gun is centered at the grip. The Nambu trigger is a joy, with a pull running about 3.5 pounds. It's by far the best trigger on any surplus military pistol I've ever shot. As you might expect, the recoil generated by a cartridge pushing a 102-grain bullet at 950 fps is exceedingly mild.

The only awkward mechanical feature of the Type 14 is the safety is rotated off-and-on a full 180 degrees with your non-shooting hand. "OFF,"

by the way, is with the safety lever pointing toward the muzzle.

Stoking The Nambu

As far as I know, the Old Western Scrounger and Buffalo Arms are the only current sources of fresh 8mm Nambu ammunition. The Old Western Scrounger currently offers load with a 106-grain plated lead bullet at \$42.95 per 50 rounds and Buffalo Arms, an 85-grain plated bullet at \$49.50 per 50 rounds.

New 8mm Nambu brass and the proper .320" Nambu bullets are available from Graf & Sons, Huntington, Old Western Scrounger and Buffalo Arms. Another source for beautifully cast .321" Nambu bullets in 80- and 102-grains is Liberty Shooting Supplies. In fact, check out Liberty for any cast bullet need. They routinely stock many of those hard-to-find, odd-ball calibers. The best deal in reloading dies (\$68) are the CH/4-D dies carried by the Old Western Scrounger and Buffalo Arms.

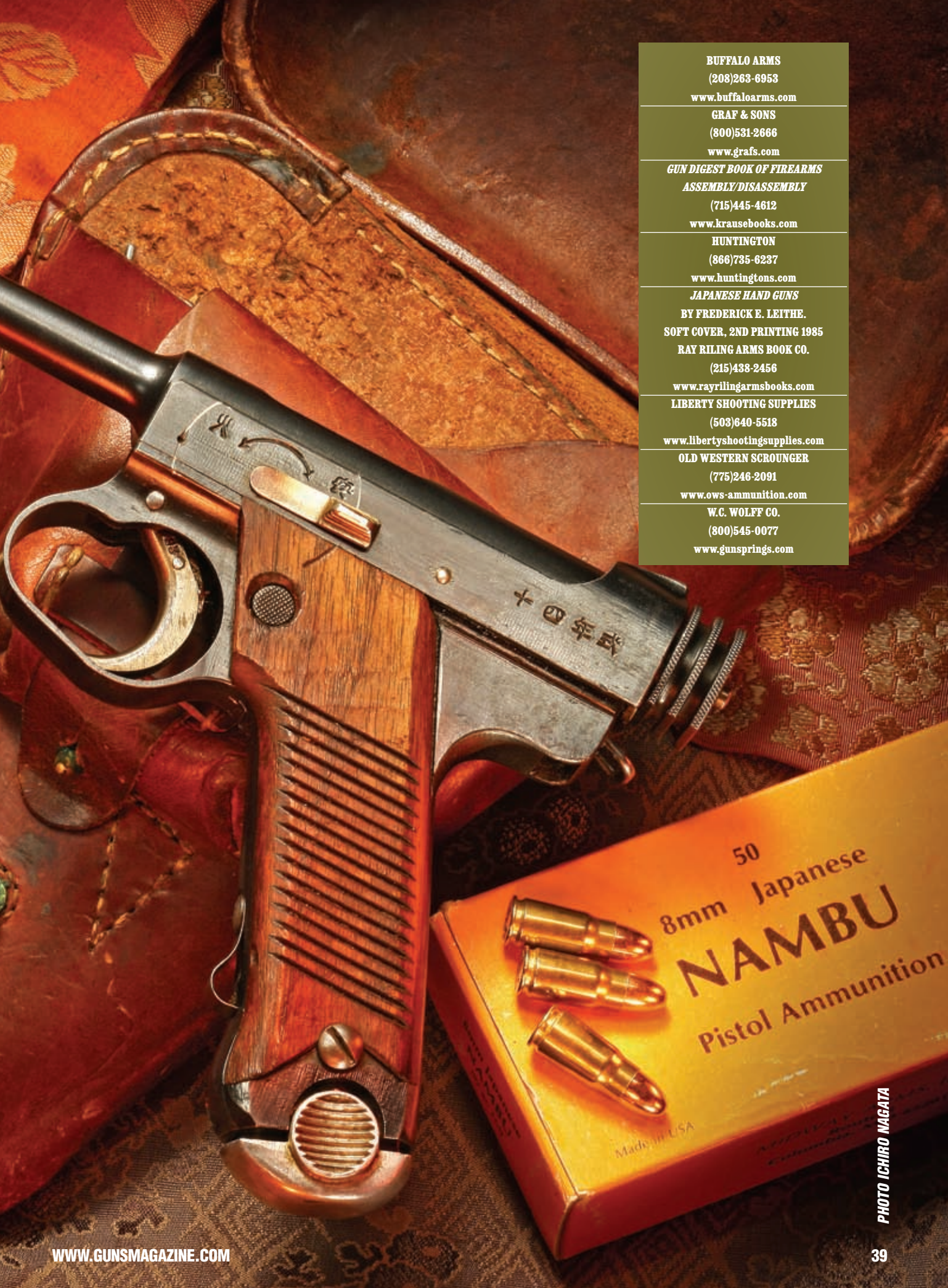
Reloads

I have never reloaded the Nambu, but Charles Petty, our handloading editor has. He recommends keeping velocity under 1,000 fps with both the plated lead and plain cast bullets. The cast 102-grain 8mm Nambu bullet from Liberty driven at 900-950 fps produced the best accuracy of 2" or less at 25 yards. Petty's data shows that velocity range being achieved with 3.0 grains of Bullseye; 3.5 grains of W-W 231; or 3.5 grains of Unique. His most accurate 106-grain plated lead bullet load consists of 3.6 grains of W-W 231. Loaded overall length with the 102- or 106-grain bullets is 1.25" to 1.30".

Accuracy? I found that the plated lead bullet loaded by the Old Western Scrounger at 1,015 fps not especially accurate, averaging 3" to 4" at 25 yards. That is the only load I have ever shot in my Type 14, which is in mint condition. It should be capable of better groups than that. I suspect that carefully tailored handloads would cut the groups in half.

So get those old Type 14 Nambus out, appreciate their design and workmanship in a new light, check for those locking blocks, and head for the range!





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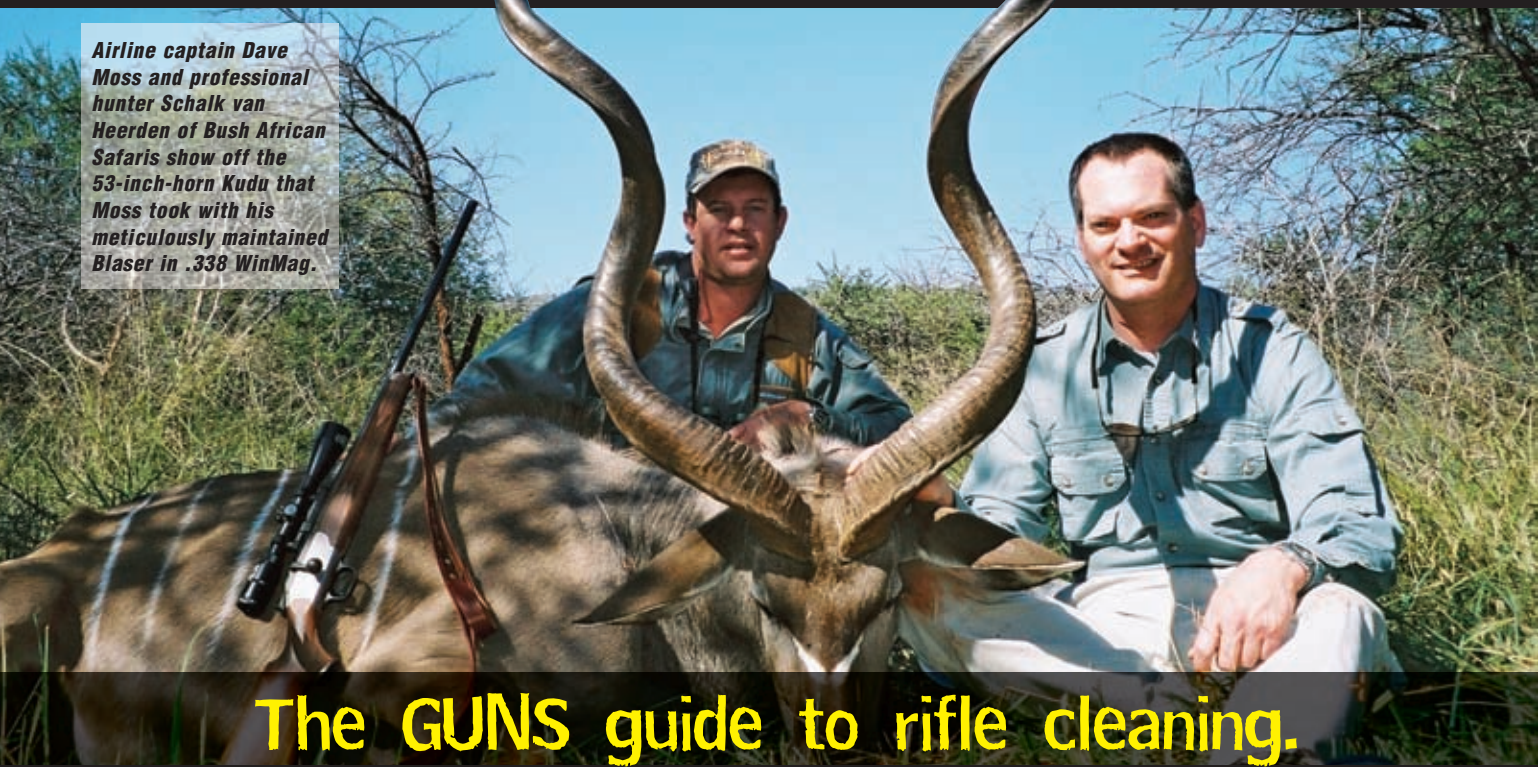
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Shane Gericke

Airline captain Dave Moss and professional hunter Schalk van Heerden of Bush African Safaris show off the 53-inch-horn Kudu that Moss took with his meticulously maintained Blaser in .338 WinMag.



The GUNS guide to rifle cleaning.

Well, sure, since you ask, I suppose you could clean your rifle with Jack Daniels and oil it with Quaker State.

But don't blame me when your next shot rainbows over the 12-point buck centered in your crosshairs and hits a stoplight the next county over instead.

You want meat in the freezer, friend, you've got to do something with ol' Thunder besides shoot it. You need to keep it clean. Whether you're a hunter, police sniper or plain ol' Earl teaching his kid to ventilate a tin can, a few minutes spent with the proper rods, brushes and chemicals pays off big in marksmanship and reliability.

Besides, the kid will not be impressed when your gun goes "flup" instead of "bang." She'll rat you out to her buddies, who'll haw-haw the news to their dads, who'll make immense fun of you at the next meeting of Neighborhood Watch. So, avoid such Dad-ly doom and clean your rifles every time you shoot.

But that's easy to say, isn't it? Exactly how does one do the cleaning? What equipment does one choose when there's more solvents, lubes and "absolute guar-

anteed sure-fire" cleaning techniques out there than Jed Clampett's dog has fleas?

Point taken. So, I grabbed all my rifles, put hundreds of rounds downrange, and de-cruded the filthy bores, chambers, actions and bolts with every commercial solvent, lubricant and rust-protectant I could lay my hands on. You name it, I stunk up my basement with it: Hoppe's, Shooter's Choice, Otis, Break-Free, Sweet's, Tetra, Blue Wonder, Kleen-Bore, Pro-Gold, Sentry, Kroil and J-B. (And for grins, a bottle of Mr. Clean, which didn't work for beans.) I wound up with a sore shoulder, a mountain of brass, and several useful observations:

- Every commercial product worked fine. Meaning you can buy whatever you want and be assured of a clean, well-lubed firearm.

- All-in-one products like Break-Free CLP get the job done, but it's better to use a separate chemical for each leg of the cleaning triad: Hoppe's Bench Rest solvent, Tetra Gun lubricant and Sentry Tuf-Cloth protectant, for instance. All-in-ones are more convenient, especially in the field, but it's tough for any single product

to clean, lubricate and protect perfectly.

- The serious gunnies, the ones who shoot 600-yard cleans at high-power matches, are correct: the combination of Kano Kroil Oil and J-B Bore Cleaning Compound is worth every huzzah. This "dream team" from Brownells removed every speck of barrel crud without eating into the metal underneath. I really like it.

- One-piece cleaning rods work better than sectionals. Yes, one-pieces are impossible to stuff in a range bag. But the screw-joints of sectionals are relatively weak and will snap if you push too hard (I did). Those joints also collect crud and bullet shavings no matter how hard you close them.

- Carbon-fiber or graphite rods are better than steel. The former, while pricier, are much softer than steel and won't scratch barrel and crown. Stay away from brass or aluminum rods. Brass rods can hold abrasive gunk and harm the rifling. Aluminum does, too, and on top of that, it doesn't rust, it oxidizes. Aluminum oxide makes great sandpaper. 'Nuff said.

- Clean rods thoroughly before each use

to remove hidden dirt and shavings. Use a bore guide to center the rod and a muzzle shield or rod guide to protect the end rifling if you must clean from the muzzle.

- Brass, bronze, synthetic and natural-bristle brushes scrub equally well, assuming you buy quality ones. But some solvents eat soft metals like Hershey bars. Moral: Buy a few of each type and experiment.

- Use synthetic or brass jags and tips. They're softer than barrel steel and won't scratch.

- Read the manual before field-stripping to clean. The factory that built your rifle knows how to disassemble it without stripping threads or breaking pins.

- Clean from chamber to muzzle to keep flushed crud out of the action, trigger and gas assemblies. Moving parts will give payback for disrespect.

- Don't scrub like you're getting rid of lice. "Over cleaning the barrel can cause groups to shift or unexpectedly grow in size," warns firearms expert David Funk. "It can take 20 or more shots to settle the barrel back down." Clean thoroughly, but don't obsess.

- Navy SEALs rub their weapons with Sentry Solutions' Tuf-Cloth. So do I. Its dry-film protectant repels dust, sand and other crud that sticks to "wet" oils and silicones. Critical in a fine-sand environment like, say, Iraq.

- I wear long sleeves, latex gloves, eye protection and a respirator (not just a paint mask) while cleaning. The root of "solvent" is "dissolve," and these harsh chemicals will damage eyeballs, skin and nasal passages if you let them. When I was a kid, my dad used muriatic acid to clean hard-water stains from the family bathtub. Being a tough cop and war veteran, he didn't wear a mask against the fumes. For the past 40 years he hasn't smelled a thing. Just like ear and eye protection at the range, wear skin and nose protection at the cleaning bench.

But those, of course, are all part of the cure. Let's take a look at the disease.

Lousy stinkin' crud

"The Crud" is my pet name for the copper, lead, carbon, moly and other burnt offerings that lard your bore after the bullets quit flying. Its known aliases are Crap, Gunk, Ick and &#@*!

Whatever you call it, the stuff comes from bullets scraping against the bore. It's like getting your car up to speed then jamming on the brakes. The long black stripes coming off your smoking tires are skid marks.

Same thing in your gun barrel. When you pull the trigger, your MatchKing zips down the bore even faster than a speeding Corvette. It scrapes as it spins, leaving the cruddy amalgam, which in turn is flash-fried by the burning primer and black or smokeless powder. A handful of shots and your fresh-groomed lands and grooves are lumpier than grandma's pancakes, altering



We tested dozens of cleaning, lubrication and protection products on these five rifles: Kel-Tec SU-16 (front, extended bipod) .223; Springfield Armory Socom-16 in .308 (left); Winchester 94 .30-30; Winchester 255 in .22 WMR; and customized Ruger Mini-14 in .223.

the flight paths of subsequent shots.

Which is why your trophy buck is hanging on that other guy's wall.

Turpentine and tallow

None of this is new, of course; German monk Berthold Schwartz, who invented the gun in the 1300s, undoubtedly made the cleaning kit his very next invention. Black powder, which ruled till smokeless arrived in the late 19th Century, was a messy affair. W.W. Greener, in his 1876 book, *Choke-Bore Guns and How to Load for All Kinds of Game* says, "Snap action guns are required to be kept perfectly clean or the barrels will not close properly."

But their cleaners and lubes would look more at home today in a kitchen.

"Boiling water, or at least hot water, was most common," David Kennedy, curator of the Cody Firearms Museum in Wyoming, says of riflemen of the mid-1800s, "And some sort of oil afterwards, either natural or petroleum-based. Sperm (whale) oil

was favored by many."

Ditto turpentine and tallow.

"For cleaning the interior of gun-barrels, turpentine will be found to be very effective," Greener wrote in *Choke-Bore*. "Care must be taken to wipe them well; then apply an oily rag, this will prevent rusting; but washing with hot water is a good plan before putting the gun away. Hot water applied to the outside of barrels will kill rust without injury to the browning (gun finish). We use only turpentine and oil to clean our guns at the wear-and-tear trials, 15 minutes only being allowed between each 100 shots; the gun came out perfectly bright and clean."

"Tallow (animal fat rendered into slick, whitish lumps) is a good thing to apply to the wearing-parts of a breech action, also for strikers, as it will not clog so soon as oil."

As for hardware, "many of the cartridge longarms came with their own sectional cleaning rods," Kennedy tells me. "Some of these had a wire brush on one end and

RIFLES AND CLEANERS AND LUBES, OH MY!

For this assignment, I begged, borrowed and bought as many rifle maintenance compounds as I could lay my hands on. They are Hoppe's No. 9, Bench Rest, and Elite cleaners; Hoppe's Lubricating Oil; Break-Free CLP; Shooter's Choice Bore Cleaner and Polymer Safe Degreaser; Sweet's 7.62 Solvent; Tetra Gun Action Blaster and Lubricant; Otis Premium Bore Cleaner; Kleen-Bore No. 10 Copper Cutter and Formula 3 Gun Conditioner; Blue Wonder Gun Cleaner and Armadillo Preservative; Pro-Gold Lubricant; Sentry Solutions Smooth-Kote Dry Gun Lubricant, BP-2000 Powder Dry Lubricant and Tuf-Cloth Dry Protectant; Kano's Kroil Oil, and J-B Bore Cleaning Compound.

My shoot 'n' clean rifles were a custom Ruger Mini-14 in .223; Kel-Tec SU-16, also

in .223; Springfield Armory M1A Socom-16 in 7.62mm.; pre-'64 Winchester 94 in .30-30; and 1960s-era Winchester 255 in .22 WMR.

An assortment of brushes, jags, mops and other cleanware was provided by Hoppe's/Michael's of Oregon, as were the one-piece and jointed stainless-steel, aluminum and graphite cleaning rods. Brownell's provided a ProTec carbon-fiber cleaning rod and its dandy two-pack of Kroil and J-B.

And finally, Dominic Incavo, head of Midwest Sports in Downers Grove, Illinois, lent me the services of customer rep Bruce Spada, who cleaned a Remington 700 R-5 Mil-Spec .308 bolt-action for some of the photos here. My thanks to all to helped.

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a slot for a cloth on the other. Some folks used a simple version of today's bore snake — a weighted string tied to ball or similar item, around which cloth or a wire mesh could be set."

"That's how Jesse James cleaned his guns, right?" I asked, fishing for a cute yarn of the hardened bank robber boiling up a sheep's heinie to make his tallow.

Kennedy laughed. "As for the famous folks, those records don't exist," he said. "No one would have asked a gunfighter how to clean your guns. They would want instead to find out how to shoot better, faster, etc."

I hate when facts get in the way of a good story. So let's fast-forward to getting your rifles clean. Here're three techniques that cover the waterfront from E-Z to Expert:

One-step cleaning

Best known of the all-in-one cleaner-lubricant-protectants is Break-Free, the official CLP of the U.S. Armed Forces. Here's how to use it:

1. Shake well, saturate cotton patches, coat bore, mechanisms and metal surfaces.
2. Allow to soak for a couple minutes (if rifle's lightly cruddy) to a couple hours (medium crud) to overnight (heavy crud). Unlike lung-busting ammoniated solvents like Sweet's 7.62, Break-Free won't etch the metal if left on too long.
3. Wipe everything clean with patches, Q-Tips and lint-free towels, removing both CLP and lifted crud.
4. Drip Break-Free onto a bore brush and scrub. Follow with dry patches. Repeat until patches come clean. Pay extra attention to the chamber, which gets the most fouling. A dedicated chamber brush helps.
5. Wipe down everything with a light coat of Break-Free. Its Teflon-based lubrication and rust protection start immediately, but will be at full strength in two hours.

Multi-step cleaning

From Kleen-Bore's Copper Cutter to Hoppe's Lubricating Oil to Blue Wonder's Armadillo to Sentry Solutions' Smooth-Kote, serious gunnies like to match their chemicals to their particular calibers, loads, powders and bullet jackets (copper, moly, etc.). Here's my procedure:

1. Soak patch with solvent. Swab bore. Repeat with fresh patch and solvent. Let soak 10 minutes.
2. Drip solvent onto bore brush, run back and forth 10 times.
3. Soak fresh patch with solvent. Run through twice. Do the same with dry patches. It's important to remove all traces of solvent, as it can corrode the barrel if left too long.
4. If dry patches are still dirty — black for carbon, green for copper, any colors or stains in fact — repeat steps 1 through 4. Then swab barrel with lubricant-soaked patch. (Dry-patch away the lubricant prior to your next shooting, though.)
5. Clean bolt, trigger assembly and rest of gun per manufacturer's specifications. Some mechanisms are finicky about sol-



Even a little bit of care would have saved this antique Winchester 1876 from death by corrosion. What could have been collector-grade is now mere wall-hanger.



A synthetic muzzle protector keeps cleaning rods from damaging lands and grooves of guns cleaned only from the muzzle.

vents and oil choices.

6. Wipe all exterior metal with oil or rust protectant.

Expert cleaning

I am not one of those rarified folks who harvest African kudu and clean high-power matches. So I turned to one who does: David E. Funk, a Northwest Airlines captain who's a federally certified armed pilot, an aviation and security consultant, former military attack helicopter pilot, hunter of varmint to big-game, high-power competitor, and lover of all things gunny. He agreed to share how he cleans his prized equipment, including his Krieger-barreled custom AR-15 DCM service rifle.

"Having shot several 500- and 600-yard cleans during high-power matches, and more prairie dogs and gophers than can be counted with most eight-digit calculators, I can say that proper barrel cleaning is critical to optimum and consistent performance," he says, especially with the moly-coated bullets he uses. "My best results have come with the following steps: First, I push through three patches coated with Kroil Oil, one wet followed by one dry," for a total of six patches. "Then, I use J-B bore paste on a patch, for 10 strokes," repeating a second time with fresh patch and paste. "I follow that with another three passes of one wet and one dry patch with Kroil." He wipes down everything else, ensures the barrel has cooled enough to bring back his zero, "then it's back to work in the dog town."

There you have it. There are as many ways to clean a gun as there are to skin a cat.



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THE

WILDEY

A MAN-SIZED Magnum Semiauto Pistol.

John Taffin

In the modern era of action movies, both good and bad guys have been armed with a Desert Eagle and Dirty Harry used both the Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum and the .44 Auto Mag to good effect. Remember how difficult it was to find a Smith .44 Magnum after Dirty Harry arrived? However, for effect, no one has ever topped Paul Kersey.

Charles Bronson as Paul Kersey helped rid the big city of bad guys using a Smith & Wesson double action .32 in the movie *Death Wish*. By *Death Wish III*, there were so many bad guys Kersey found it necessary to take a great step up in power as he introduced the evil ones to his "friend Wildey." Wildey was the type of friend that never lets a fellow down; Wildey was his street and alley cleaner chambered in .475 Wildey Magnum. I lost track of how many bad guys Kersey's friend eliminated. It was surely the longest-running gunfight until the recent Western movie, *Open Range*. Wildey Moore, owner of Wildey, says every time *Death Wish III* shows up on cable, he gets orders for his .475 Wildey Magnum.

Who Do You Trust?

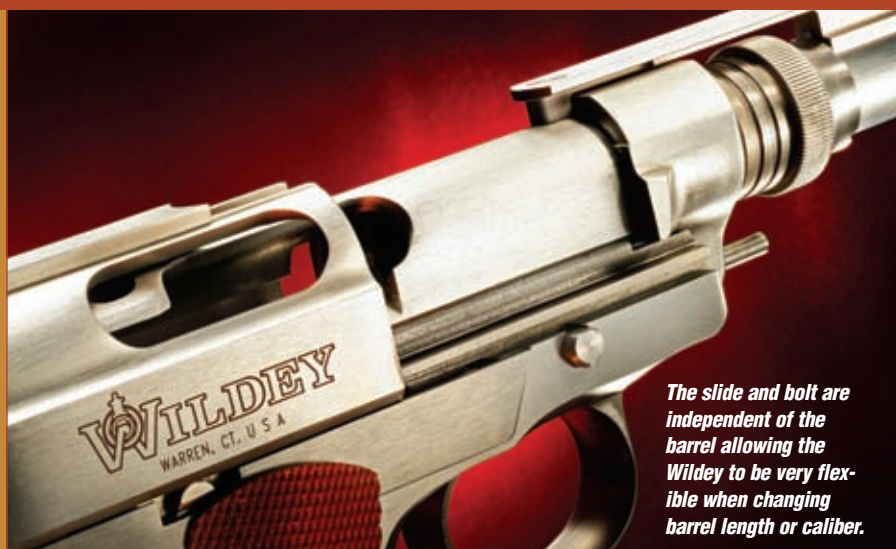
Wildey J. Moore first introduced his Wildey Magnum autoloading pistol in the 1970s with that first example chambered in the then relatively new .45 Winchester



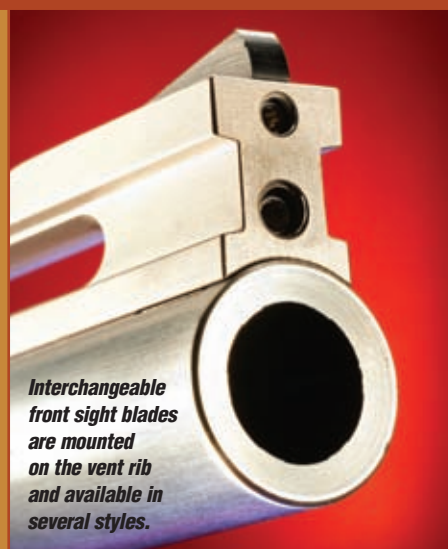
Wildey Moore shows Charles Bronson the ins and outs of the Wildey Magnum.

Magnum or, as it is most commonly referred to, the .45 Win Mag. As so often happens with new gunmaking ventures, Moore found the operation consumed money faster than I can make a pepperoni pizza disappear. More money had to be raised so Wildey issued

stock. Unfortunately for him, he trusted the wrong people and soon found himself with only 25 percent of the stock. Other stockholders banded together and he was forced out of the company. What the controllers did not understand was a very simple

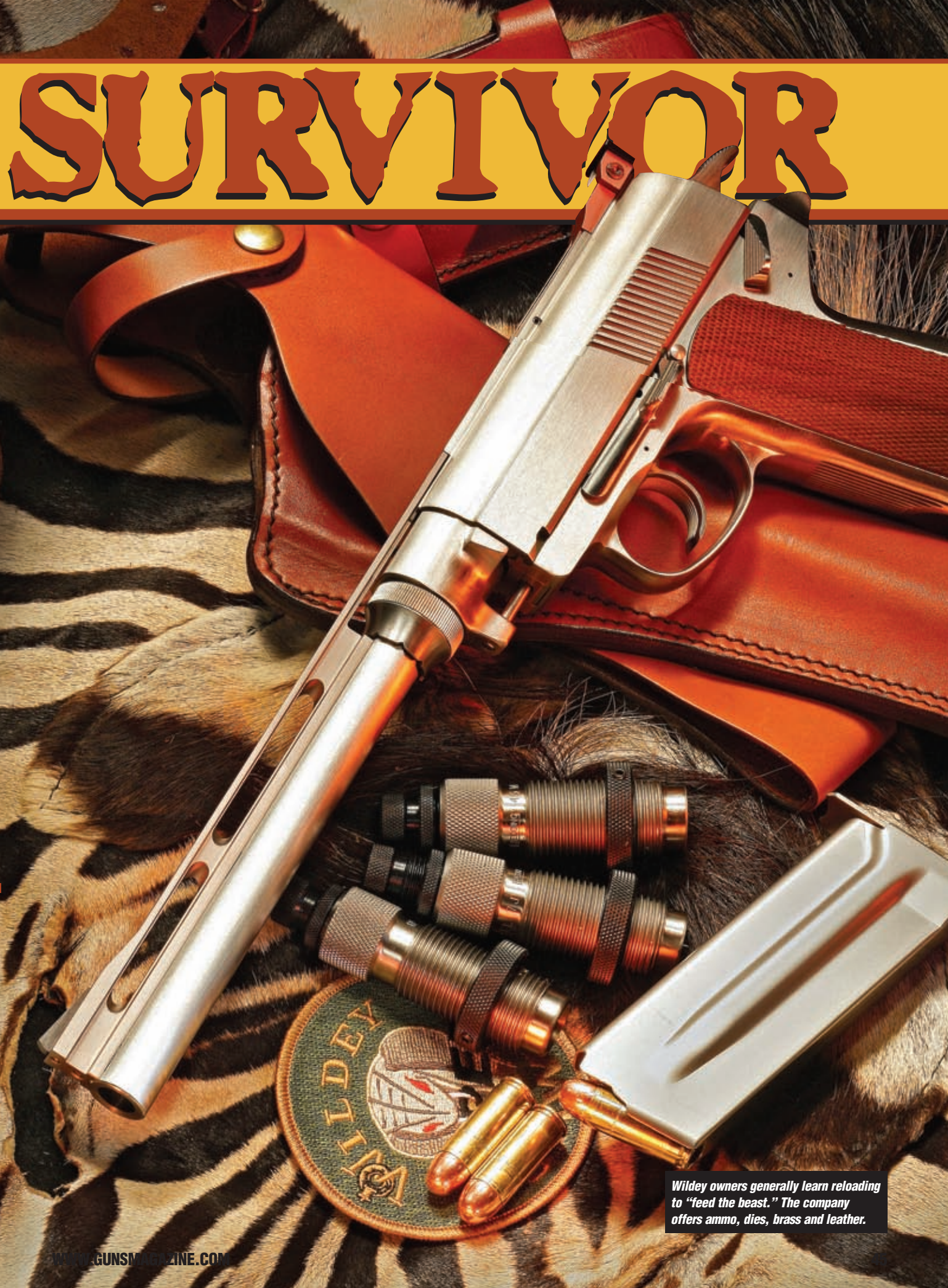


The slide and bolt are independent of the barrel allowing the Wildey to be very flexible when changing barrel length or caliber.



Interchangeable front sight blades are mounted on the vent rib and available in several styles.

SURVIVOR



Wilkey owners generally learn reloading to "feed the beast." The company offers ammo, dies, brass and leather.

THE
WILDEY
SURVIVOR

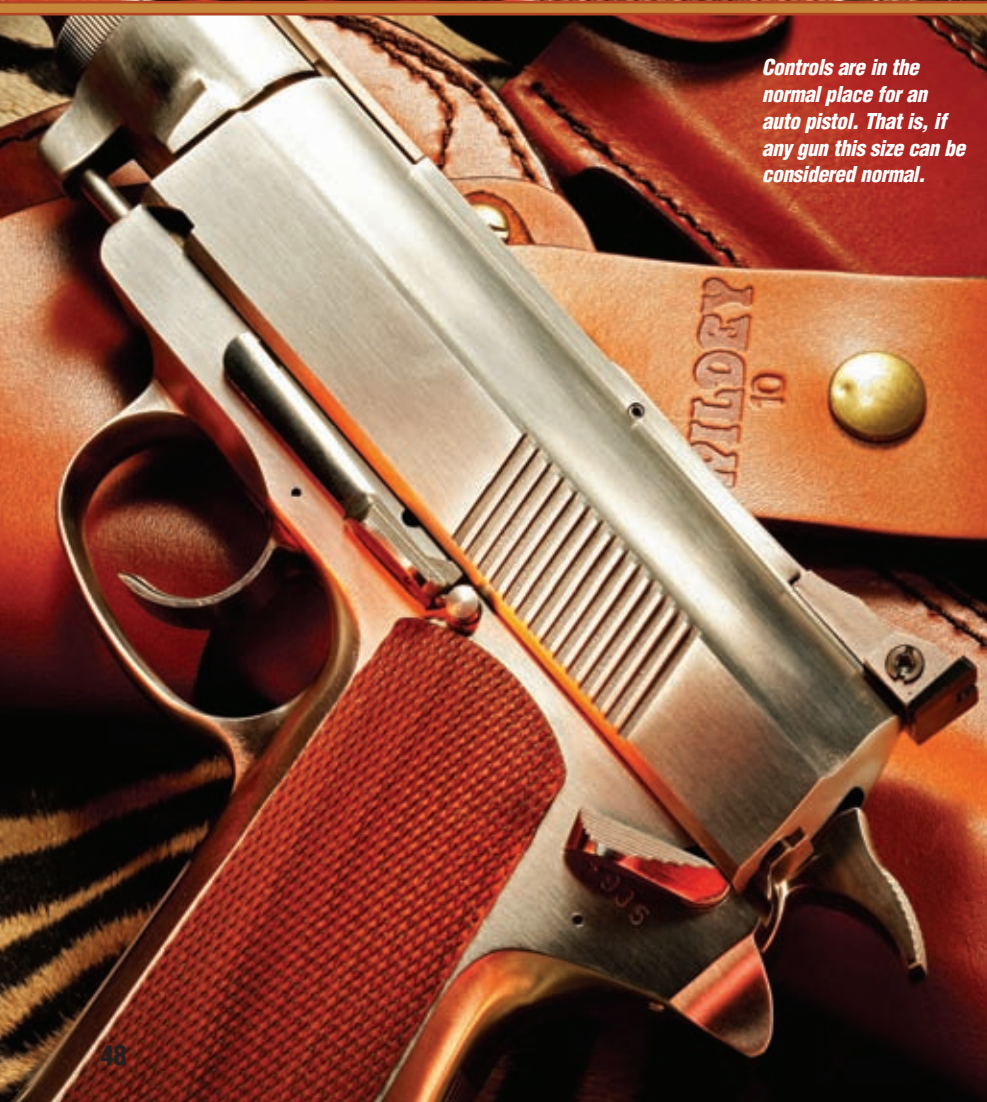




GUNS
MAGAZINE



Controls are in the normal place for an auto pistol. That is, if any gun this size can be considered normal.



fact: Without Wildey there was no Wildey Magnum and within a year they declared bankruptcy. That was 1983 and it would take several years for Wildey to regain control of his own company.

The Really Big Bores Arrive

During those intervening years Wildey designed a new cartridge for his Wildey Magnum, the .475 WM (Wildey Magnum). The timing could not be better as this was the same time shooters were really becoming interested in very powerful big-bore cartridges such as the .454 Casull and John Linebaugh's .475 and .500 sixgun cartridges. For his .475, Wildey trimmed .284 Winchester brass back to just under 1.300" loading it with 250- and 300-grain bullets at 1,800 and 1,600 feet per second making it a true powerhouse pistol. Since the .284 Winchester has same rim size as the .45 ACP/.45 Win Mag, the original .45 Wildey Magnum was already set up to accept the new chambering.

Today Wildey, Inc. is up, running and healthy providing Wildey Magnums in the original .45 Win Mag as well as the .475 Wildey Magnum, the .44 Auto Mag, and the newest offering the .45 Wildey Magnum, which is the .475 necked down to .45 caliber. All four calibers use the same size rim (with the .44 being based on the .308 Winchester case) and are offered in barrel lengths of 8", 10", 12", 14", and 18" with the latter available as a carbine version. In addition to these options, the .45 Win Mag and .44 Auto Mag chambering are also offered in easier to carry 5", 6", and 7" versions. Make no mistake, these are not lightweight, easy-packin' pistols considering they weigh in excess of four pounds. They are also necessarily large and when I grip the Wildey the tip of my thumb just barely reaches the tip of my middle finger. This is not a problem, at least for me, as shooting the Wildey is a two-handed proposition.

Several versions of the Wildey Magnum are also offered such as the Survivor, Survivor Guardsman, Hunter, and Hunter Guardsman, as well as a long-barreled Silhouette Pistol. The Guardsman examples have triggerguards with a squared off front instead of the traditional rounded profile. All Wildey Magnums offer interchangeable barrels, interchangeable front sight blades, fully adjustable sights, and even the ability to interchange calibers. Grips are checkered walnut and at first glance I expected the recoil to be such the checkering would eat my hand alive; it does not.

Unique Features

There are several unique features found on the Wildey Magnum, which, by the way, is of all stainless steel construction polished bright, except for the matte finish found on the Hunter versions. The sighting system features a full-length ventilated barrel rib and, unlike other large caliber semi-automatics, the Wildey Magnum has a double-action

trigger mechanism coupled with a hammer block, trigger block, and rebounding firing pin. If the pistol is cocked and one decides not to fire, a lever on the left side de-cocks the Wildey Magnum.

The Wildey Magnum is a gas operated, semiautomatic and here's where it really gets interesting. The Wildey pistol is able to handle all of the above cartridges in their full-house loading as well as lighter loads and still operate reliably due to the unique-est (yes I know there is no such word, however it certainly describes the situation) feature of the Wildey Magnum. Wildey says, "the Wildey patented gas system is an air-hydraulic piston powered by the firing gases through six small holes in the barrel. This piston forces the slide rearward, initiating the cycling of the pistol."

Just forward of the receiver is a round knurled button of sorts that tapers to the front to become the same basic size as the barrel. This is the gas regulator. As Wildey says, opening or closing the gas regulator adds just the degree of "kick" the piston gives the slide. Reducing this kick slows down the slide, while increasing it forces the slide to move faster. If the slide does not move fast enough it will not reach its farthest rearward travel and does not pick up the next cartridge in the magazine. Different barrel lengths also require differing amounts of gas pressure. So in effect, with the gas regulator, each shooter is able to custom tune his Wildey Magnum to the power of the cartridge.

To regulate the gas operation, cartridges are loaded singly and directly into the chamber, this requires the magazine to be inserted as the Wildey has a magazine disconnect safety, and as each round is fired the gas regulator is adjusted until the slide stop locks the slide open. Once this is determined, a full magazine should then be fired and if any cartridges do not feed because of short recoil of the slide, the regulator is turned counterclockwise one more click.

No Brass Kickin' Here!

I found a great advantage to this system to be custom regulating. I do not like to chase brass. By setting the gas regulator at



The Wildey is double-action semiauto with frame-mounted decocking lever.

the right level and putting the empty magazine in place I could feed cartridges one at a time directly into the chamber and the brass would not extract fully even though the slide was locked open. A shake of the gun and the cartridge would drop out exactly where I wanted it to land. Then when using the magazine I could re-set the regulator so cartridges would feed and extract reliably. Very handy! In fact I could set it so almost every cartridge ejected would land in my shirt pocket. Now that is really handy!!

The Potent .45 Win Mag

The .45 Winchester Magnum finally arrived in the late 1970s after a couple years of teasing us with several announcements about its soon-to-arrive status. Shorter than either the .44 Magnum or .45 Colt, it is basically an elongated .45 ACP, which is fine. However, it was handicapped at the start by only being offered with the same 230-grain Full Metal Jacket bullet as the .45 ACP. Even though factory loads were in the .44 Magnum level traveling at approximately 1,400 fps, the 230-grain FMJ was not what most people would choose as a hunting bullet.

Personally, before shooting the Wildey, I have had experience with the .45 Winchester Magnum in all three basic handgun types, revolver, semi-automatic, and single-shot. Those three were the Dan Wesson .460, the

AMT AutoMag and LAR Grizzly and the Thompson/Center Contender. With proper loads and bullets it has proven to be both an accurate and sufficiently powerful cartridge for handgun hunting.

For test-firing the 10" barreled .45 Win Mag chambered Wildey Survivor, I used three factory loads I had on hand. Those loads are Black Hills 250-grain JHP with a muzzle velocity of 1,407 fps, Cor-Bon's 230-grain FMJ at 1,471 fps, and Winchester's 260-grain JHP at 1,353 fps. Accuracy was excellent with the first two in my hands, placing four shots in just under 1". For a big-bore pistol at this stage of my life that is outstanding performance. One of the really positive attributes of the Wildey Survivor and a major factor in coming up with excellent accuracy is the fact the sights are big, bold and black, making them much easier for me to see. The Wildey Survivor can also be scoped using a Wildey base, however it requires drilling and tapping the ventilated rib. If I were to use it for hunting other than close range — 50 yards or less — I would definitely scope it. In addition to the scope base, Wildey also offers loading dies, ammunition — except for the .45 Win Mag, which is readily available — and custom leather for each of the Wildey Magnums. 

WILDEY, INC.

45 Angevine Road, Warren CT 06754
(860) 355-9000, www.wildeyguns.com.

ACTION TYPE:	Double action semiauto
CALIBER:	.45 Win Mag (Also .44 Auto Mag, .45 Wildey Magnum, .475 Wildey Magnum)
CAPACITY:	6+1
BARREL LENGTH:	10" (tested, others available)
OVERALL LENGTH:	14"
WEIGHT:	72 ounces
FINISH:	Polished stainless steel
SIGHTS:	Adjustable rear, ramp front on ventilated ribbed barrel
GRIPS:	Checkered Walnut
PRICE:	\$1,549.95

THE BATTLE OF ADOBÉ WALLS

MYTH VS REALITY

MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO

*The facts have been twisted over the years,
but the real story is still astounding.*





Billy Dixon is buried at Adobe Walls.



Archaeologists found many .44-77 cases at Adobe Walls. These two single shot rifles from the 1870s are in that caliber: top is a Model 1874 Sharps and bottom is a Remington No. 1 Rolling Block. Both rifles date from the 1870s.

Every student of American Western history has heard of The Battle of Adobe Walls. The general conception goes this way. On June 27, 1874 a horde of Comanche, Cheyenne, and Kiowa warriors descended on a trading post in the Texas panhandle but were defeated by only 28 white men and one woman. The primary reason such a small band of defenders could overcome a large party of experienced warriors is attributed to the fact the 28 men were buffalo hunters. That meant they were expert marksmen equipped with the finest long-range rifles of the day. Consequently they were able to keep the warriors at bay, inflicting numerous casualties on them in doing so. At the end of the battle the famous buffalo hunter/marksgman Billy Dixon shot an Indian off his horse at the amazing distance of 1,538 yards.

Reality was a bit different. The "horde" of Indians probably amounted to no more than 200 to 300 warriors, many of them youngsters on their first warpath. Of the 28 buffalo hunters/expert marksmen, about half were professional hunters. The rest of the white men present were skinnners, cooks, bartenders, blacksmiths, clerks, and wagon drivers. In fact, the actual number of white men at Adobe Walls when the Indians struck cannot be ascer-



Duke at Adobe Walls.

CAUSES OF BATTLE

The settlement at Adobe Walls, Texas, came about because a few merchants perceived an economic opportunity in taking supplies to buffalo hunters instead of having them come the 150 miles north to Dodge City. There were some adobe ruins in the area, which counted for the name; the actual buildings in the short-lived trading post were constructed of wood or sod or a combination thereof. Starting in early spring 1874 the partnership of Charlie Myers and Fred Leonard began the first building, complete with a 200' x 300' hide yard with 8' high stockade-type fence enclosure. Bordering the hide yard were three buildings comprising a mess hall, store and stable. Their buildings were made of cottonwood logs set on end in the ground and chinked with mud.

Next came Rath & Company, which built their smaller store with sod walls 3' wide at the bottom and tapering to about 1½' wide at the top. James Hanrahan, knowing that any group of 19th century males needed a saloon, came next. That building, too, was made of sod. Lastly came blacksmith Thomas O'Keefe who built an open-sided blacksmith shop, again of chinked cottonwood logs. Later the universal consensus was that the thick sod walls stopped incoming bullets

much better than ones of chinked cottonwood logs.

The Settlement

The settlement of Adobe Walls quickly prospered. There were uncounted numbers of buffalo hunters in the vicinity and hides

quickly began to accumulate. One newcomer seeing the trading post from a distance thought he was seeing many houses around the stores until when getting close he realized the "houses" were stacks of buffalo hides. One employee of the stores estimated later that they were receiving about 1,000 buffalo hides a day shortly before the attack. The stores also enjoyed thriving sales in everything from clothing to powder, lead, and primers for the hunter's rifles. In fact, both retail establishments stocked entire cases of Sharps rifles and, when the actual fight began, the Rath & Co. store had more than 11,000 rounds of ammunition in stock.



tained exactly, despite a granite monument in place there with names on it. That's because after the danger was over and the fight had been proclaimed a great victory everybody who had been in the vicinity and many who had not been anywhere near said they had fought there. Some names on the monument should not be there and some not there should be.

Casualties?

Exact Indian casualties were not and never will be known but the most informed estimates amount to between one and two dozen dead and an undetermined number of wounded. Billy Dixon, one of the first whites to see the oncoming charge of the feathered warriors that dawn of June 27, 1874, said it was a sight he would never forget and was glad he had experienced it. Later many of the Indian participants said that fighting buffalo hunters was a bad business and didn't seem all that nostalgic about it when reviewing the day's events in later life.

It should also be noted that the Battle of Adobe Walls was a multi-cultural affair. White participants included Americans and German-, English-, and Irish-born men,

For those who would visualize Adobe Walls as a hardscrabble place, it should be noted that the restaurant run by Mrs. Olds served its food on imported white English ironstone dishes. There was also glass in the windows, and several loads of finished lumber had been freighted in from Dodge City. Some of the men found an orphan mustang colt and gave it to Mrs. Olds for a pet because they felt that as the sole woman in residence she must be lonely.

The Tribes

Naturally Plains tribes in the form of Comanche, Cheyenne, and Kiowa resented the white hunters. Political correctness today has it they hated the whites for removing their food source, the buffalo. But it should be mentioned that Indian traders on the reservations were obtaining thousands of buffalo hides from the Indians themselves; trading them modern firearms and ammunition in return. So the Battle of Adobe Walls could also be viewed as a war of economic competition. At this time two strong Indian leaders emerged. One was Quanah Parker, the half-breed son of a white woman captured by Comanches in 1836. The other was a shaman whose name Isatai, today would be loosely translated as Coyote Poop. Clever Mr. Poop convinced the other Indians that he had a special paint that would keep the white man's bullets from hurting them or their horses. They did raid a few buffalo hunter's camps and kill their occupants, but they wanted to make more of a statement. With an ever changing population of hunters plus the day-to-day residents,



Archaeologists have also determined that both Henry (top) and Winchester Model 1866s were used at Adobe Walls.

while the fighting warriors were from the Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne tribes. There were even said to have been some Arapaho along to watch, but smart enough to stay back and not get shot. Additionally there was at least one black man present. He was a deserter from the U.S. Army, attested by the fact that he carried a bugle and knew how to play the various military calls on it. That amazed the defenders in the beginning,

who thought they were being saved by U.S. troops, and then angered them when they realized the black man was riding with the Indians. One buffalo hunter got a shot into the deserter and stopped his music.

Handguns Rule

Those 29 whites were not saved by long-range "buffalo rifles" but instead by fast-firing metallic cartridge revolvers.

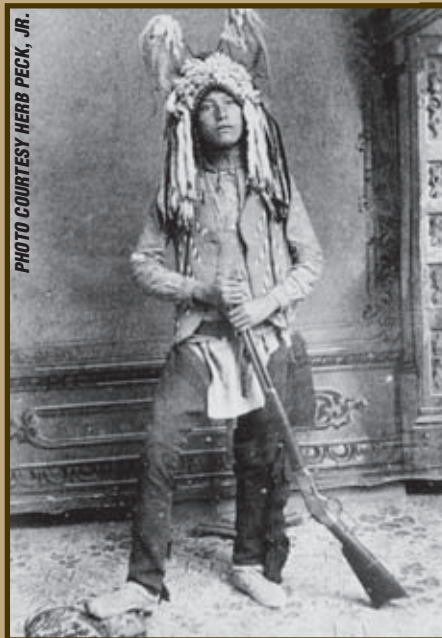


PHOTO COURTESY HERB PECK, JR.



PHOTO COURTESY HERB PECK, JR.

Many of the Sioux, Cheyenne, or Kiowa warriors (above, left) who fought at Adobe Walls used Winchester Model 1866s. Many others used Henry rifles in .44 Henry Rimfire (above, right).

they felt Adobe Walls made the perfect target. In this they were mistaken.

Magic?

As is well known today, magic to prevent the penetration of bullets doesn't work, as was quickly shown by the number of dead Indians in and around Adobe Walls that hot 27th of June, 1874. Also it did not help with Mr. Poop's credibility that his horse took a Sharps' bullet through the head. After the initial half-hour's fighting right in the settlement, the Indians backed off and satisfied

themselves with peppering the buildings with bullets. No other defender was hurt after that. Some Indians were. This is where the long-range power and accuracy of the big Sharps rifles came into play, for after the initial charge failed the Indians had no chance of even getting close enough to do much damage to the defenders.

Within a few weeks of the battle, the white settlers had abandoned Adobe Walls, even leaving many thousands of dollars worth of trading goods there. Shortly thereafter the Indians burned the buildings.



The Guns At Adobe Walls

Without a doubt the big-bore Sharps single-shot rifles favored by the hunters for killing bison will remain identified with the Battle of Adobe Walls. However, as stated before, testimony left by participants makes it clear that sidearms saved the day. They were used in those vital first few minutes to fight the Indians clear of the walls so

that the range and power of the Sharps rifles could be brought to bear.

The Dig

Written accounts of the battle by people who were there make little mention of exact types of handguns used. However we are fortunate that professional archeological excavations were done on the Adobe Walls site in the 1870s and the results printed in *Adobe Walls; the History and Archeology of the 1874 Trading Post* by T. Lindsay Baker and Billy R. Harrison.

By the retrieved cartridge cases and bullets, the study has proven Smith & Wesson Model Model 3 .44 American, and Colt Richards or Richards/Mason Conversion .44 Colt revolvers were used. Also it is possible that Colt Model 1872 "Open Top" revolvers were there as that handgun

was chambered for the .44 Henry rimfire cartridge and many such cases were found on the battle site. However, since the Henry rifle and Winchester Model 1866 rifle and carbine also fired the .44 Henry round, it is not known if any of the cartridges found were fired in Colt revolvers. At least one Remington Model 1871 .50 caliber single shot pistol was present, which seems a strange choice of sidearm for someone who knew they might be going in harm's way. Also, the archeologists found evidence that one .45 Colt Single Action Army revolver had been fired on the battle site. This was a very new handgun in June 1874, so new that even elite Army units such as the 7th Cavalry were just then taking delivery of them. Could one have been in the hands of civilians in a distant place like Adobe Walls that soon?

Colt SAA

It is certainly possible because it is known that Colt quickly sold to civilians any Single Action Army rejected by



Both Colt .44 Conversions (top) and Smith & Wesson Model 3s in .44 American were used in the fight.



When the Indians flooded in around the buildings there was no time to get the big buffalo rifles into play. Besides, a single-shot rifle isn't the best choice of weapon when the adversaries are just on the other side of small, cottonwood logs sticking their Winchesters through the chinking to let fly at you. Most of the white men at Adobe Walls that morning were sleeping out of doors due to the Texas heat. At the sound of shouting, war hoops, and shooting they ran for the cover of walls, many unholstering sixguns as they ran. Barely making it through the doors as the Indians arrived, they returned fire through windows and chinking with Colt and Smith & Wesson .44s.

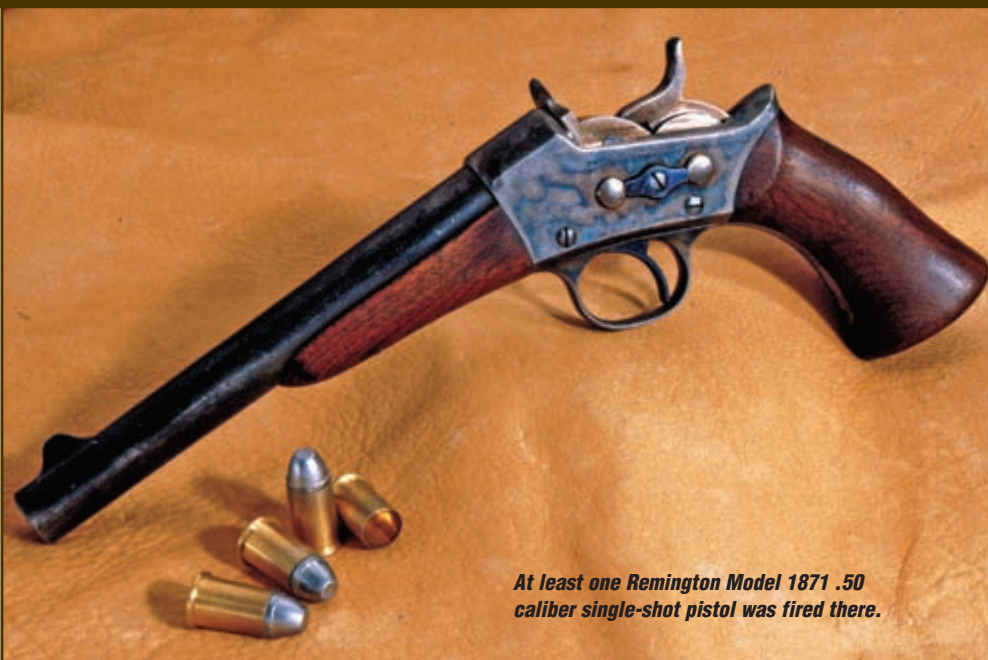
The fighting was said to have been extremely furious during that first charge. Indians dismounted and were banging on doors with rifle butts, and mounted ones were trying to back their horses through doors. Some Indians shoved revolvers through cracks in the walls and emptied them. This did the whites no physical harm, but no doubt gave them reason for posttraumatic stress later in life. None of the three white men killed during the Adobe Walls Battle died while fighting behind walls. In fact there is no record that anyone was even hurt once they got behind walls. The Scheidler brothers, Issac and Jacob — German emigrants — died in their wagon box where they slept.

Army inspectors at their factory. Also, it is known that some manufactured goods, including firearms, made it as far west as Dodge City via railroad within a week of leaving their eastern factories. Alternately, the .45 Colt case could have been dropped on the site later by someone passing through.

The Rifles

The archeology done at Adobe Walls has shown that .50 caliber Sharps rifles were the choice of most buffalo hunters there. Those would have been either .50-70 (1¾" case) or .50-90 (2½" case), with more of the former discovered in the dig. Also present in numbers were cases for .44-77 (2¼" case) and .44-90 (2⅝" case). It was also proven that the buffalo hunters at Adobe Walls cast their own bullets and loaded their own ammunition because lead sprues and slag and expended primers were found under the remains of the buildings.

Besides handgun cartridges and Sharps rounds the archeologists found different sizes of muzzle loading rifle or pistol projectiles ranging from .38 to .56 caliber, and cartridge cases fitting several different chamberings of Spencer repeating rifles were found. As said above Henry and Winchester Model 1866 lever guns were definitely there.



At least one Remington Model 1871 .50 caliber single-shot pistol was fired there.

The Melee

The Battle of Adobe Walls was a brief, very sharply fought encounter between frontiersmen of all walks of life and warriors from at least three different tribes. White participants describe it as a wild melee with every man for himself in the first minutes. Also several agreed that if the Indians had concentrated their forces

on one or another of the buildings at a time they could have prevailed, but since each went his own way there was no cohesion in their attack. The battle was one of the few encounters wherein Plains tribesmen were beaten by a loosely connected group of white civilians, and it is perhaps the only fight of the Indian Wars where handguns played a decisive role.



(Often their name is Americanized to Shadler.) According to various sources, Billy Tyler took a bullet through either the back, neck, or chest during either a run from one building to another or as he turned when dashing through a door so he could let loose one more shot at the Indians. Different eyewitnesses wrote it differently. One thing all agree on is that he died.

1,538 Yards? No

Even if Billy Dixon did shoot an Indian off a horse at long range it almost certainly was not at 1,538 yards. Billy Dixon himself never said so. On the third day, the story goes, after the battle a small group of horseback Indians exposed themselves on a distant butte, and Billy Dixon rested his *borrowed* Big .50 Sharps and dropped one of them. Supposedly, some years later Dixon related this story to his wife Olive K. Dixon who then included a single paragraph about it in her book *The Life and Adventures of Billy Dixon*, published after his death in 1913. In the first edition (1914) of that book the distance is said to be 1,200 yards. According to *Adobe Walls; the History and Archeology of the 1874 Trading Post* by T. Lindsay Baker and Billy R. Harrison, a Texas surveyor measured the range in 1924 and determined it was 1,028 yards. The second edition of Olive K. Dixon's book published in 1928

changed the range to 1,538 yards.

Besides, the documentation about the Adobe Walls battle mentions several impressive shots made on groups of Indians at extreme range by several of the white participants. It is strange that just one shot has been singled out above all others. If you go to Adobe Walls today equipped with a rangefinder you will quickly see that none of the distant buttes are 1,538 yards away. One is about 600 yards, and the other is about 1,200 yards.

All battles are reported differently by participants who see only what happens in their immediate area. For instance, since the fight took place simultaneously in three different buildings spread over a couple hundred yards, the participants don't even agree exactly who was where. In fact since the various whites hung around their favored establishments or places of employ some did not know each other. During the fight they only knew who was in the room with them, if even that.

Lack of Observation

Another reason why the Adobe Walls Battle has so many conflicting stories is that few of those involved had any degree of training in observation. Here's a comparison: After a fight between Indians and the U.S. Army, the participating (or surviving) officers had to write official reports for their superiors. Therefore,

they took note of the dead warriors left on the field, the amount of ammunition expended, their own casualties, and even how many horses were killed. It was all put into writing for the official record. Conversely, after the Adobe Walls fight, where no one was in charge, the participants went their separate ways, not realizing they had been involved in what was to become a historical occurrence. Some of the more literate ones did write down a few particulars soon after the fracas in letters to friends and relatives. Others did not try to set down what they saw or didn't until a half century later after the battle had become legendary. Some of the white participants reported being attacked by perhaps 200 to 250 hostiles right after the fight. Fifty years later the figure of 1,500 was being bandied about. Men who were there reported soon after the fight that they found either 11 or 13 corpses of Indians in and around the buildings. Fifty years later some said that no less than 150 Indians were killed.

Not one word of the above detracts from the drama of the actual happenings. The Battle of Adobe Walls was a desperate fight for life by those few white people against steep odds and most certainly should have its place in American Western history. But it does not honor the bravery shown by the fighters on either side to turn the occurrence into mythology.





The business end of the .375 is pretty impressive, too.

MERKEL

SMALL-BORE DOUBLES ARE JUST

I have no way of knowing for sure, but as a dreamer of sorts, I think the guy who invented the double barrel rifle probably survived an encounter where one barrel got him by — but just barely. Whether a charging lion or two guys with spears, a second barrel could come in handy at the correct time and place.

Single barrels are self-explanatory, shoot the gun and run like the dickens. Shooters of yore firing black powder front muzzle stuffers even practiced running and loading which was probably one of those real handy things like having a tomahawk and the ability to use it.

The side-by-side gun is — without reservation — quicker to deploy and fire than a single-barrel gun or a bolt-action system. Semiautomatics may be quicker, but then

again most often they are not firing the types of cartridges that double guns are chambered for. With large-bore double guns it is probably helpful to have a little recovery time between shots and sight acquisitions. For the point shooters in the crowd I guess you could point shoot but with a Syncerus caffer or a Bison bison closing in at mach two, me I vote for looking at the sights and getting a good hit.

The Merkel

I have a fondness for Merkel guns, even if my wallet won't always back up my fondness. They are affordable but require a motivation to purchase above the weekend gun show \$200 specials. Merkel's today are made in Germany as they have been for centuries and

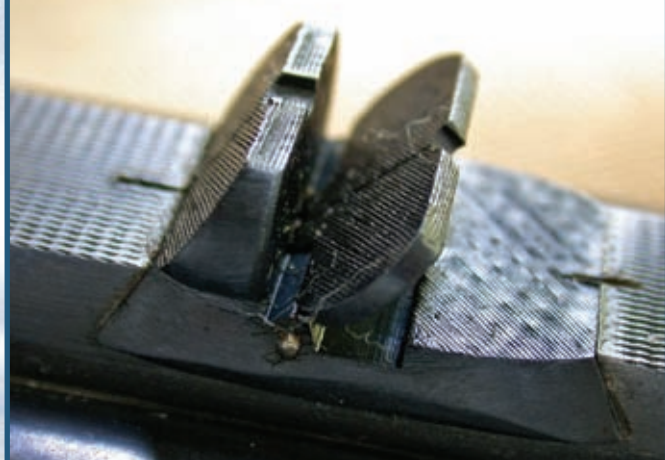
sold by their American importer GSI in Trussville, Alabama. The aged Merkel tradition of building absolute quality firearms currently continues in all the long guns they make.

The Little Gun Hunt

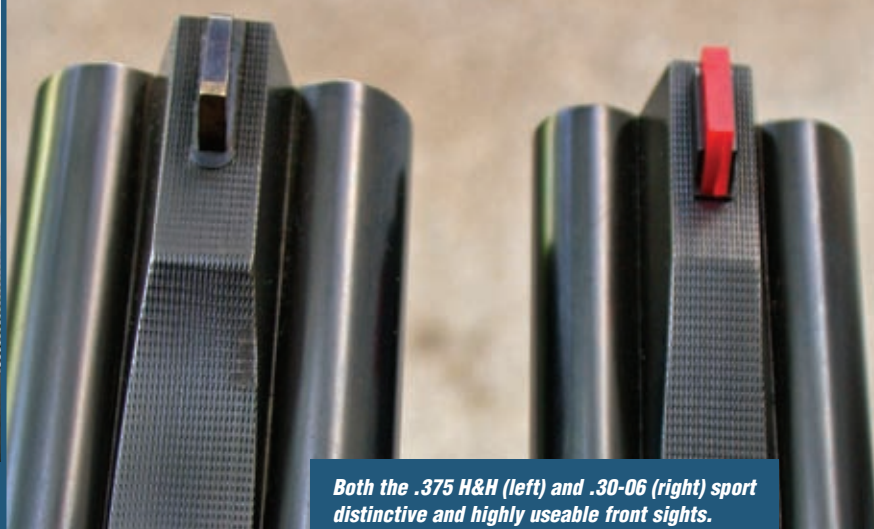
Using a Merkel model 141 side-by-side in caliber .30-06 topped with a Leupold scope, I had a chance to do a summer time hunt for *Aepyroceros melampus* or the African version of an Impala for the plain spoken. The new Merkel is built on a small-frame action about the same size as would be correct for a 28-gauge shotgun. In this format the rifle weighs in at 6¾ pounds sans the scope and, with the Leupold scope on top, the weight shifts to a nominal 7¾



The .375 H&H at the ready. Doubles are quick into action and handier than a bolt gun.



The two leaves on the .375's rear sight are graduated for a no-nonsense 50 and 100 yards.



Both the .375 H&H (left) and .30-06 (right) sport distinctive and highly useable front sights.

DOUBLES

CLINT SMITH

AS MUCH FUN AS THE BIG BORES.

pounds. The rifle is light and handy with the twin barrels measuring in at 21" plus a little and an overall rifle length of 39". This rifle is not a quarter-minute bench gun; then again, it isn't supposed to be. At 100 yards the rifle shot groups on the range prior to the hunt of less than 2" from each barrel and overall groups of around a nominal 5" for both barrels fired at the same target holding the same point of aim for both.

The rifle is fitted with a pistol grip and single trigger that is heavier than I like because I'm like a four-pound-trigger kind of guy. I am pretty sure the trigger weight situation is a reflection of the current concern for liability issues in our sue everyone for my personal mistakes America. The

safety goes to the "On" or "no fire" mode when the action is open, which is probably correct for this lighter-caliber rifle most often used for plains game instead of dangerous game. The safety causes me no personal concern and, as always, the best safety is the space between your ears and your trigger finger's location.

The Merkel in this configuration has extractors and no ejectors — a gentleman's gun — and they worked fine as I had spent some time running dry drills doing the unloading and loading process prior to the hunt.

After a spot and stalk, the first round out of the right barrel found it's mark and the animal moved off, as is often the manner of antelope. Cracking the action

open I cleared the right barrel and reloaded it smartly. Reacquiring the impala after moving through some thick brush, I used the right barrel again although it probably wasn't required. The premise is, in my opinion, an impala loaded in the truck is better than three in the bushes, and the second shot definitely put the rust-colored plains runner in the truck.

The Future Hunt

With me on this south Texas Impala hunt was a personal friend of mine, Tim Bartosh from Dallas, Texas. In anticipation of an African Cape Buffalo hunt next year Mr. T had recently acquired a Merkel model 140 which is a souped-up side-by-side chambered for .375 H&H. Compared



The Merkel .375 H&H (top) has no provision for a scope. The .30-06 (bottom) does as befits its plains-game mission.



Both Merkels are box-lock actions with cocking indicators present on the .375 H&H (top). The .375 has double triggers instead of a single as does the '06.

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Above: The .30-06 Merkel 141 after action on an Impala. Doubles don't have to be chambered for big, shoulder-busting cartridges to be highly useful.

to the slender framed 141 in .30-06 this on-steroids Merkel is sleek looking, but without a doubt, it is the monster truck of side-by-side rifles.

The .375 H&H version tips the scales at 10½ pounds with cold hammer-forged barrels measuring 23½" long. I think there might be some sort of additional weight added to the rear stock to help with recoil issues as the rifle balances well but is inclined to feel slightly butt heavy. There is no provision for a scope to be attached and the clear to the eye two-blade flip up rear sight is calibrated for a no-nonsense 50- and 100-yard setting. The bold front sight is a large rectangle with a gold colored front sight post. It is a serious sighting system for a serious rifle. Let there be no mistake the Merkel 140 is a dangerous game rifle in every sense of the word. It has two triggers and no automatic safety. The tang-mounted safety requires you to put the safety switch on if you want it. The polished side plates have

cocked hammer indicator pins that protrude when the hammers are in the firing position. I think this is a nice touch when possibly closing in thick vegetation with something that can eat or stomp the bejeepers out of you.

The big Model 140 rifles, like its smaller cousins, have extractors and not ejectors. I think this leans on the concept that we might not want the empty cases pinging about hither and yon drawing attention to our location in the contest of shooting big angry animals with guns in thick bushes. Recoil was stout yet not overly punishing while shooting the .375 H&H rifle in offhand standing position at the range. Accuracy was way under quarter minute of Cape buffalo while firing 300-grain Federal solids. Mr. T was happy with his romp-and-stomp gun and I think he will be well armed and up to the task for next year's trip to the dark continent. Buffalo beware!

Reality Check

Although side-by-side rifles in reality are probably not for everyone, neither are engraved pistols or ivory stocks. To each their own as they pass thought this life and through their own life experiences. It is enough said that, as you pass through your life and if while doing so your life experiences occasionally call for a second barrel, maybe it should come from a Merkel.

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MODEL 141

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Importer: GSI

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(205) 655-8299, www.GSIfirearms.com

ACTION TYPE: Anson & Deely boxlock

CALIBER: .30-06

CAPACITY: 2

BARREL LENGTH: 21"

OVERALL LENGTH: 39"

WEIGHT: 6¾ pounds

FINISH: Scroll engraved silver-grayed receiver, blued barrels

SIGHTS: Fixed at 100 yards with option to mount scope

STOCK: Walnut, oil finished

PRICE: \$7,100



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CALIBER:	.45 ACP
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BARREL LENGTH:	5"
OVERALL LENGTH:	10 $\frac{3}{8}$ "
WEIGHT:	45 ounces
FINISH:	Stainless steel
SIGHTS:	Adjustable rear, Patridge front
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LENGTH CLOSED:	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
WEIGHT:	6.6 ounces
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SCALES:	Micarta

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RIGHTS WATCH

Weapons of Choice

David Codrea

"Smith & Wesson is the handgun of choice among America's criminals."

We know this because Steve Bailey of *The Boston Globe* tells us so. The columnist berates the gun maker for not pursuing an agreement hatched between its former British owners and the Clinton administration to ward off lawsuits by imposing draconian restrictions on firearms dealers.

"Smith & Wesson's .38-caliber revolver is the handgun traced most often in crimes," he proclaims.

"As the cops and ministers work the streets in Boston, the gun lobby is working the halls of Congress in Washington," Bailey whines, anticipating the end of the federal "assault weapons" ban.

What that has to do with S&W .38s is anyone's guess, but it dovetails nicely into the Violence Policy Center's hysterical assertion that "Drug traffickers are finding that assault weapons ... provide the extra firepower necessary to fight police and competing dealers. Right-wing paramilitary extremists ... have made these easily purchased firearms their gun of choice."

Agreeing with the anti-gun fanatics at VPC is the anti-gun fanatic at LAPD, Chief William Bratton, who tells *Los Angeles Times* readers "[M]ilitary-style assault weapons ... are not necessary for hunting or self-defense, but their light triggers and rapid-fire capability make them weapons of choice for criminals."

The Chief must be on to something, because the Consumer Attorneys of California not only back him up, but narrow down the model, claiming "The TEC-9 is the assault weapon of choice among criminals."

Except the *San Francisco Chronicle* tells us "AK-47s have emerged recently as

'the gun of choice' among San Francisco's gang-bangers."

And that's not the only dissension in the ranks. According to *Legal Affairs* magazine, "In the 1990s, manufacturers increased production of nine-millimeter handguns — the gun of choice for murderers."

Offering yet another competing view is the Contra Costa Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which argues "Junk guns [are] the gun of choice for criminals ... their low cost makes them perfect for criminals who need a gun they can throw away after a crime."

Agreeing is former California Assemblywoman Sally Havice, who voted to ban affordable handguns using the rationale that "They are the criminal's gun of choice."

Their inability to reach a consensus notwithstanding, it's evident that those who would eliminate private ownership of firearms all agree on one thing: they mean to leave us no choice.

But let us now return to Boston, where "police say they are seeing a surge in the number of gang-related attacks involving machetes."

"It seems to be that machetes are the weapon of choice," Detective Brian Kyes told our friends at *The Boston Globe*.

Trying to bring some perspective to the debate is Hispanic community leader Pastor Luis Morales, who argues that these are gardening tools with lawful and productive uses, and that anything can be used as a weapon.

"What about baseball bats?" he asks. "They are also used in gang-related attacks. Even a shoe can be considered a weapon if someone uses it to hit someone else."

So don't be surprised when some statist zealot suggests basketball high-tops are the criminals' footwear of choice ...



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VIEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

Why We Fight

A seven film anthology released during WWII

directed by Frank Capra, U.S.A.
www.goodtimes.com

Hollywood was different during WWII. There was no defeatist talk, simpering or whimpering like we've been getting today. Our film stars didn't go to our enemy's camp and proclaim him "Mr. Nice Guy" or beg to surrender and make a deal — any deal — to be left alone. No, during WWII many Hollywood celebs stepped up to the plate for America. Filmmaker Frank Capra was one. He directed seven propaganda movies for the USA entitled *Prelude To War*, *The Nazis Strike*, *Divide and Conquer*, *Battle of Britain*, *The Battle of Russia*, *The Battle of China*, and *War Comes To America*. In them, he shows the American people why we're fighting Nazi Germany and Japan. The movies are composed of newsreel photography from the theaters of operation and narration. It's hard to imagine such filmmaking happening today, although

the case could be made that it is necessary.

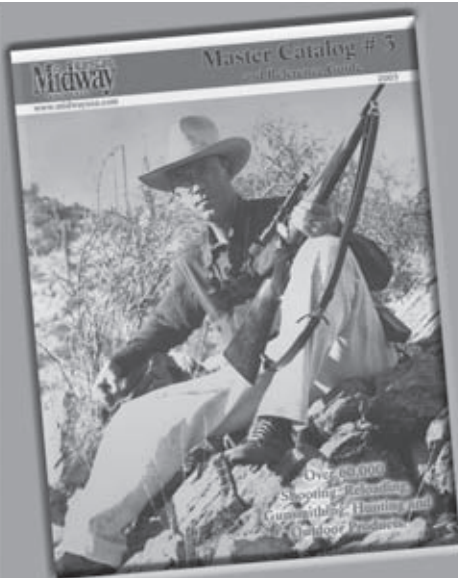
Capra was under some filmmaking constraints at the time. Because he had to use newsreel and combat footage from disparate angles, he often "flops" the film in order to make "film sense." If you look close, you will see the occasional "left-handed gun" or backwards markings on a tank or plane. Usually the footage is cut fast enough that it isn't noticeable, but the magic of DVD allows you to play an endless game of "Hey! What was that?"

This particular collection uses unrestored prints of the film. The whole four DVD set was just \$15.95 and you get more than you pay for. Still, the prints used are well worn and scratchy, especially at the ends and at the reel changes. There are too many splices and the audio could've been cleaned up. There is a restored version available for substantially more money, but one wasn't available for review (read: you're intrepid editor was too cheap to buy it for a single viewing). After viewing this one, I'd say a restored version would probably be worth it for the audio and lack of dialog missed by some of the severe splices. Just bear in mind a lot of the footage was originally 16mm and the



quality wasn't very good to begin with. If you're only going to watch it once, and you can't find it for rent, this is the best value. 

Run Time:
Each featurette about 65 minutes
Rated: Not rated
Original Release Date: WWII
DVD Release Date: 2000
Format: Standard Full-Frame 1:1.33
Sound: Dolby Digital Mono
Language: English



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IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

Millions in Public Funds Wasted

Elected officials in California, who say they are concerned about crime and public safety, have wasted almost six years and millions of dollars that should've been spent fighting crime rather than in pursuit of a lawsuit against the firearms industry. An appeals court has voted — unanimously — for the industry and against public officials trying to blame gun makers for crime. Two years ago, the politicians presented their case only to have the circuit court judge grant the industry a summary judgment. That means the cities put on their case, and without having to present a defense the industry was granted its motion for the suit to be dismissed. San Francisco, Los Angeles and 12 other California cities and counties pursued the case since 1999, but could not prove a link between the way the firearms industry conducts its business and the way criminals acquire guns. In the decision, Appellate Court Judge James Marchiano noted, "No evidence in this case hints that any of the manufacturer defendants provided weapons to criminals or failed to properly record sales or did any of the other acts that plaintiffs characterize as high-risk business practices." — *Courtesy NSSF*

IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

Preventing Remote Hunting

A possible introduction of remote hunting, by way of the Internet, in Texas has sparked a proactive response from several states. Legislators in Texas, Virginia, Hawaii and Maine have introduced bills to prohibit computer-assisted and other types of hunting that allows for the aiming and firing of a firearm by an individual not physically present. Numerous conservation and hunting groups questioned the ethics of allowing individuals to hunt via the Internet. According to the State Legislative Sportsmen's Caucuses, preventive and proactive legislation such as this protects the fair chase ethic of our hunting, fishing and trapping heritage. — *Courtesy NSSF*

Sounds more like "Strange Tales of Science Fiction" to me. Maybe all the hoopla about video games rotting some people's minds is true. — Editor

IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

SCI to Install Big Game Wells in the Mojave National Preserve

Safari Club International and the California Department of Fish and Game received permission from the Mojave National Preserve and the U.S. Department of Interior to "convert four ranching well developments into wildlife guzzlers for mule deer" on Preserve land.

The four wells in question are the Eagle, Watson, Caruthers and Lecyr wells. According to the Preserve, the wells must be converted in this order and work must be completed by the end of 2005. SCI has been working on restoring and maintaining water catchment systems (big game wells and small game "guzzlers") in the Preserve for several years.

SCI encourages its chapters and members, and other wildlife, conservation and sportsmen's groups in California to volunteer time and financial resources to help restore the wells in question.

For volunteer information, contact Andy Pauli from the California Department of Fish & Game, (760) 240-1372 or project coordinator Cliff McDonald, (760) 326-2935. McDonald is an SCI member from Needles, California, and has been instrumental in this effort to the water systems.

Donation checks should be made payable to "Safari Club International Foundation" and mailed to Safari Club Int. Foundation, c/o California Mojave Desert Wells Restoration Project, 4800 W. Gates Pass Road, Tucson, AZ 85745.

Contact Safari Club Int., (520) 620-1220, www.safariclub.org. Contact the SCI Foundation, (877) 877-3265, www.sci-foundation.org. — *Courtesy SCI*



IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

New York Focus on Youth

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation is currently conducting public comment sessions statewide to review proposed changes in the upcoming deer season, which includes switching the opening day of its Southern Zone firearms season from a Monday to a Saturday. The move would allow students, who ordinarily miss the opener, to be afield when up to 50 percent of the bucks taken all season are bagged. In addition, four bills have been introduced to the state legislature to make it easier for young people to participate in shooting sports and hunting activities. — *Courtesy NSSF*





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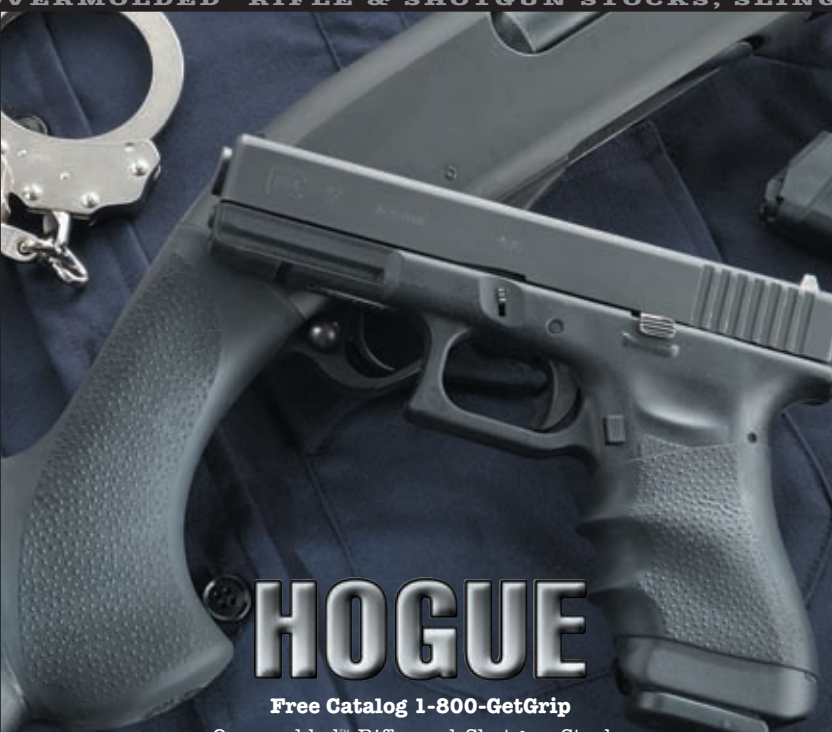
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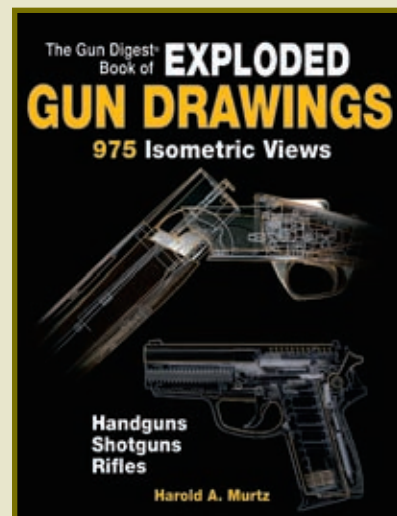
Gun Digest Book of Exploded Gun Drawings

Harold A. Murtz
Krause Publications, 2005

The tinkerer's delight is back and includes 975 isometric views of modern and antique firearms on more than 1,000 pages. While breakdown instructions aren't included, these gun drawings are important if you can't remember the orientation of a given part upon reassembly. I sometimes leave a gun apart for quite awhile during a restoration or major repair and having a guide like this is invaluable. It is illustrative just for seeing the parts count some firearms have. It is also good for identifying the name of small parts like "lifter pawl spring post" or "front receiver screw binding screw plug." Try ordering one of those little beasts over the phone by saying, "You know, it's the little screw that goes in the front of the other screw thingie ..." Chances are if you refer to this book, the people on the other end will be able to figure out what you're talking about.

Also included in the 1,000+ pages is a directory of just about everything shooting related. It is cross-referenced to include the diverse services some companies provide, so you can surf by manufacturer alphabetically, or by type of product. 

ISBN: 0-89689-141-0, \$29.99, paperback from KP Books, 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54990, (715) 445-2214, www.krause.com.



USAMU shooter chosen as Army Athlete of Year



Maj. Michael Anti (left), winner of the 2004 Army Male Athlete of the Year award, displays his Olympic silver medal in men's 50-meter three-position rifle shooting alongside gold medalist Zhanbo Jia of China (center) and bronze medalist Christian Planer of Austria (right). Photo: Tim Hipps

Major Michael E. Anti of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has been selected as 2004 Army Male Athlete of the Year. Maj. Heidi Grimm and Capt. Anita Allen are co-winners of the Army's Female Athlete of the Year award. Anti and Allen are members of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program.

Anti, 40, of Winterville, N.C., won a Silver Medal in Men's 50-Meter Three-Position Rifle shooting event in the 2004 Olympic Games at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre in Athens, Greece. Anti, a three-time Olympian, also finished 24th in Men's 50-Meter Free Rifle Prone in the Athens Games.

Grimm, 37, of Rochester, N.Y., won Gold Medals in the 2004 Armed Forces Triathlon Championships at Naval Base Ventura, Calif., and the 2004 Conseil International du Sport Militaire Triathlon Championships at Belfort, France. She was the first U.S. military female finisher in the 2004 Ironman Triathlon World Championships at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, with a time of 11 hours, 31 minutes and 5 seconds in the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run.

Allen, 27, of Star City, Ind., finished 18th in Women's Modern Pentathlon in the Olympic Games at Goudi Olympic Complex in Athens, Greece. The highlight of her five-sport performance there was a first-place ride in the equestrian show-jumping event.

For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, www.usamu.com. For further information on the World Class Athlete Program, contact Douglas Ide, CFSC Public Affairs Officer at (703) 681-1548, DSN: 761-1548 or pao@cfsc.army.mil — *Courtesy Tim Hipps, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center*



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Trijicon ACOG Official Marine "Rifle Combat Optic"

The Trijicon ACOG riflescope (Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight) has earned the singular distinction of being named the first-ever Rifle Combat Optic (RCO) of the United States Marine Corps. A multi-year contract was awarded to the Michigan-based optics manufacturer in August, 2004. The RCO will be mounted to the M16A2, M16A4, and the M4A1 carbine to enhance the Marines' ability to identify and accurately fire upon targets from muzzle to 800 meters.

The TA31RCO will be a slightly modified version of the TA31F 4X ACOG. The Corps currently has approximately 6,000 of those models in service. The new model will incorporate Trijicon's dual-illuminated red chevron-shaped reticle and bullet drop compensator. In low light or at night, the chevron is brightly illuminated by tritium. In daylight, a fiber optic system collects ambient light and helps ensure daytime brightness and controlled contrast. The system is battery-free. A new Target Reference System will allow a rifleman to quickly and accurately reference the location of a target and communicate that location to fellow Marines. The TA31RCO will also feature Trijicon's Bindon Aiming Concept (BAC), a both-eyes-open shooting method to help increase hit ratios at close quarters. The TA31RCO will soon be available for civilian sales.

Major General J.N. Mattis, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom said, "The ACOG mounted on the M16 service rifle has proven to be the biggest improvement in lethality for the Marine infantryman since the introduction of the M1 Garand in WWII."



IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

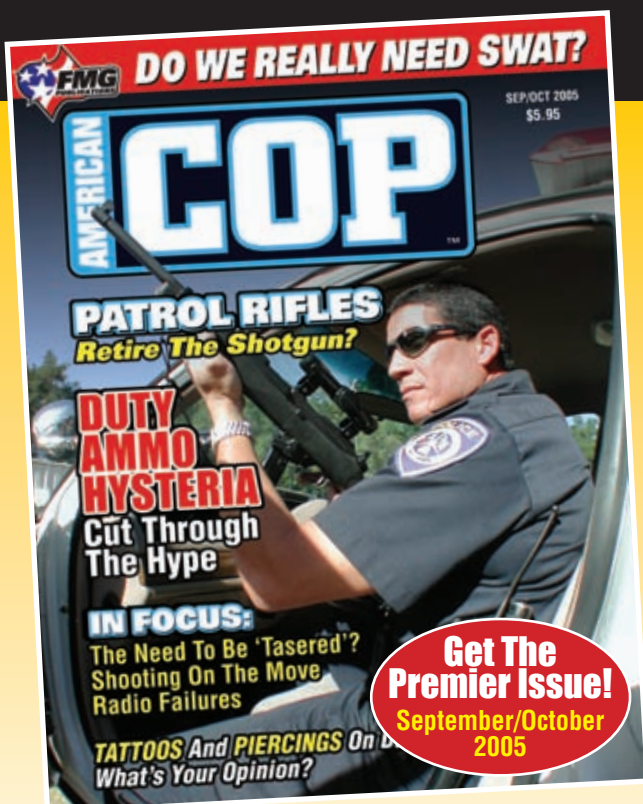
You Can't Ask Their Age, But ...

The Quality Deer Management Assoc. has published a guide to help hunters and game managers make a calculated guess on the age of live white-tailed deer, based on behavior, time of year and other physical indicators. More than three-dozen high-quality photographs are featured in the 20-page full-color Field Guide to Aging Whitetail Bucks on the Hoof, which is available for \$6.99. Quality Deer Management Association, P.O. Box 227, Watkinsville, GA 30677, (800) 209-3337, www.qdma.com.

— Courtesy NSSF.



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IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

Civil Liberties?

Last year, Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy complained in Congress he was prevented from flying to and from Washington because his name was on the Transportation Security Administration's "no-fly" list, one of the 12 used by federal agencies to keep track of "terrorists" and "terror suspects." Kennedy told CBS News it took him weeks to have his name removed, even with the involvement of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. Now there's a new law proposed in Congress to make the "no-fly" list a list of those prohibited from buying a gun. An editorial on the Keep and Bear Arms Internet site raises serious questions about "what would alarm the civil liberties crowd if they were as interested in firearms rights as in other civil rights." Research shows "an estimated 650 NICS transactions 'generated initial hits on terrorist records' in the government's Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File. However, the [GAO] report admits, 'The vast majority of NICS transactions that generated initial hits on terrorist records ... did not result in valid matches.' Translation: The initial hits were mistakes." — *Courtesy NSSF*



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Won't They Ever Learn?

In their efforts to "control crime," Britons incrementally were prevented from owning certain kinds of guns and then prohibited from owning any kind of gun. The crime rate increased because "control" efforts addressed only guns and not criminals. British subjects today were told that because of increasing gang-related crimes, knives may no longer be purchased by anyone under the age of 18. — *Courtesy NSSF*



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director in New Role

Steve Williams has resigned as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become president of the Wildlife Management Institute. WMI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific wildlife management. In leaving, Williams told employees of the service, "I have worked closely with WMI during the past 20 years and have been impressed with its professionalism and conservation projects." Williams' boss at USF&WS, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, thanked Williams for his service, noting many accomplishments in conserving wildlife habitats, expanding opportunities for fishing and hunting and advancing cooperative conservation partnerships. 

— Courtesy NSSF

IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

Total Waste of Money, But They're Learning

The man who runs Maryland's State Police force has testified a mandate to collect ballistics information hasn't helped solve crimes. Col. Thomas E. "Tim" Hutchins testified about a state police report that calls the Integrated Ballistics Identification System, or IBIS, expensive and ineffective. As a result, Delegate Joan Cadden, a Democrat, sponsored a bill to repeal the requirement for collection of the ballistics information with the sale of each handgun in Maryland. — Courtesy NSSF 

IEWS, NEWS AND REVIEWS

New Jersey Audubon Endorses Deer Hunting

The *Star-Ledger* reports that for the first-time in its 108-year history, the New Jersey Audubon Society is supporting hunting as a management tool to reduce the state's white-tailed deer population. In a report that was scheduled for release today, the state chapter says deer are eating away at the natural landscape, becoming an ecological "stressor" for birds and other wildlife. The group is even considering opening some of its preserves to hunting. — Courtesy NSSF 

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CROSSFIRE

Continued from page 6

With a mouth-on presentation, you have one chance. A bullet fired into the mouth that misses the brain would smash through to the spinal column and destroy that.

While we are on the subject of fantasy hunts on Jurassic Park, is it just me, or did someone else think the scene in *Jurassic Park II* where Roland fired both barrels of what looked like a .577 Nitro, got two clicks, and failed to have any extra ammo to feed his primary armament, was incredibly stupid? Also, since the person who sabotaged the loads in his rifle pulled the bullets and dumped the powder, wouldn't the primers have fired rather than just giving two clicks? It seems that even *Jurassic Park II* isn't free of technical errors.

Maybe I should take a crack at being a science-fiction gun writer.

Andy Breglia
via e-mail

The brain box on T-rex was big because it had large visual lobes and a huge area devoted to processing odors, not all that much devoted to contemplations on fine wine and world peace. If we accept the current theory that birds are the direct descendents of dinosaurs, then we can perhaps assume a bird's nervous system is similar to T-rex's. Have you ever brain-

shot a game bird or cut the head off a chicken? In T-rex's case, you're shooting at six tons of meat 15' high and 40' long. A brain shot would have that thing doin' the dead chicken dance all over you. I like the idea of the M59, though.

The funny part about Spielberg is he is quite a shooter himself and he should know better or know who to ask, if he cared a whit. When you make movies at the 6-year-old level, I guess it doesn't matter. I reckon he's laughing all the way to the bank. — Editor.

Wrong Name

In the February 2005 issue, J.B. Wood writes in "The Name Game Part I," "Then there are those with a 'reset' system, in which the hammer or striker is 'half-cocked' when the slide cycles. In this group are the Glock, the Kahr, and the Kel-Tec."

This is incorrect. I am the proud owner of a Kel-Tec P-11, and am awaiting the arrival of my newly purchased P-3AT. These pistols operate in the same basic manner as a double-action-only revolver.

When the trigger is pulled, a draw bar pulls the hammer against the tension of the hammer spring. When the hammer has traveled fully to the rear, the draw bar slides off of a spur at the bottom back of the hammer, releasing it to fly forward and make contact with the firing pin. The firing pin then transfers the energy to the primer.

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The draw bar remains under the hammer until the trigger is released, allowing it to go back to its ready position. The slide has no effect on the readiness of the firing mechanism, allowing for repeated strikes on the primer (should such a thing be necessary) without having to retract the slide to re-engage the striker (as is the case with a Glock).

Brian Slane
via e-mail

CZ 52

I sent a copy of the Nov '04 article on the CZ 52 to a friend of mine, Jan Balcar, who has written several articles for the Czech firearms magazine *Strelecka Revue*. Mr. Balcar informs me that the CZ 52 was made only at the plant in Strakonice and not at Uhersky Brod. He also said that the "dots" on the top of the slide of the CZ 52 were hardness tests using the Rockwell method. He cited Lt. Col. Jan Hanousek of the Czech Army Ordnance Corps for this information. Apparently, the "dots" have never had anything to do with accuracy. Notwithstanding the error, I enjoyed the article.

Alan J. Bell
Hood River, Ore.

More Connor Friends

I just had some comments to say about the lashings some subscribers think that John Connor has been getting. John doesn't display a sense of "low class" as a certain gentleman proclaims in the March '05 Crossfire. As a matter of fact, the subjects he has brought to mind and the way they are discussed takes the seriousness out of them and let a reader relax on the subject and reflect on what's being written. Not having to examine everything because of the criticism feared of coming back. I received Guns Magazine subscription for a gift and because of the quality and class that the writers like John Connor bring to the magazine. I have extended my subscription for another 3 years. Thanks to all y'all at GUNS for the great articles and overall magazine.

Ricardo Lopez Jr.
Texas

Whack a Rex

What shoulder fired weapon to use for whacking a T-rex? Easy, I'd go with an RPG and a center of mass shot.

Lee French
Medford, Ore.

You might be on to something. Downside? There is some evidence T-rex hunted in packs. I guess if you could reload fast enough ... — Editor.

Not So Smart Guns

I was very concerned when I read that the team working on "smart" gun technology in New Jersey expects to have a system ready for production in January 2006. New Jersey has already passed a law that will ban the sale of any standard handgun once "smart"

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gun technology hits the market. You know all the other "blue" states will be quick to follow and pass similar legislation once New Jersey's ban is in effect.

This will be really bad news for anyone with even a fairly small handgun collection because you won't ever be able to sell it under such a law. And don't think the law will always be only for handguns. You can bet within a year or two there will be pressure to ban *all* non-"smart" guns. I think the national gun-rights organizations and individual gun owners should immediately start gearing up to fight this one.

The manufacturer(s) who build smart guns should also realize there will be a backlash similar to the one that occurred a few years ago when a major handgun manufacturer made an agreement with the Clinton administration. I certainly won't buy a thing from any company that jumps on this project. I think all the manufacturers should stand together and refuse to build them.

I want to be able to continue collecting and one day pass my collection on to my son. I'm sure no one else wants to have their prized firearms confiscated when they pass away (or maybe even before that) because they are not "smart" guns.

Better start writing those letters now.

Bob Yezak
Waterbury, Conn.

Be Careful

Mike Venturino's "Be Careful!" column in the March issue rang a bell with me. While a high school and college student during the 1950s and part of the '60s, I worked part time for a gunsmith in Austin, Texas. The gunsmith was the official repair station for numerous manufacturers, the Austin P.D., and the Texas Dept. of Public Safety.

I remember a couple of occasions when these agencies brought in boxes full of pistols very similar to your Colt SAA. All of them had either part of the cylinder blown completely away or one complete chamber blown out and/or the top strap either completely missing or bent like yours.

After a lot of investigation, it was determined the cause was due to poor reloading practices by these agencies, poor training of individuals using Star machines, and in some cases using prison trustees to do the reloading of their training ammo which consisted of mixing brass of all makes and 148-grain bullets and Bullseye powder. It was finally determined the most probable cause of the blowups was inadvertent double or triple charges. They tightened up their training, hired people to do their reloading and properly trained them. That cured their problem as far as I know.

John Shivers
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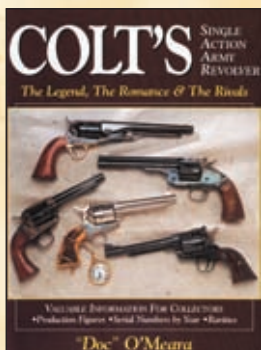


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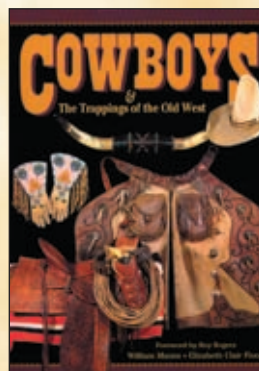


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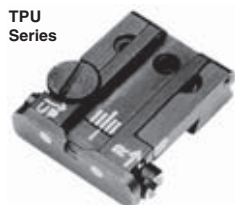
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The new "Big Boss" clearly inherited all the best qualities of its benchmark "The Boss," but it's built on a heavier frame with a longer ram stroke for reloading magnum cartridges. Its features include a heavy duty cast iron frame sporting a 36-degree offset for easy access and visibility,

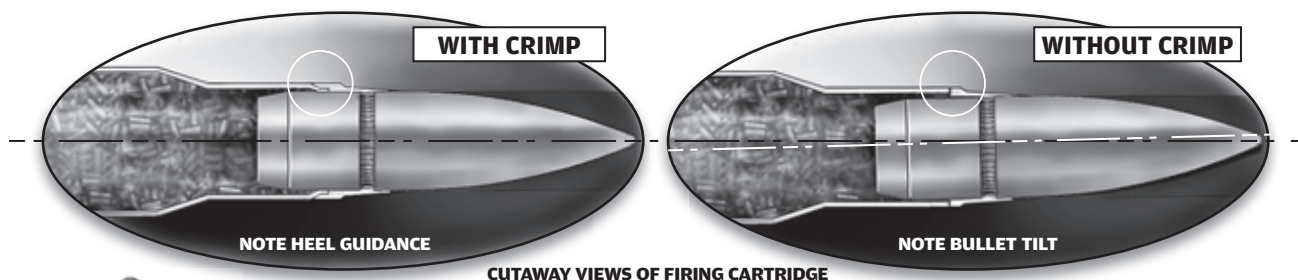
extra large 4½" frame window, over 3.8 inches of ram stroke, a sturdy 1" diameter ram, Redding's "Smart" primer arm, offset handle for ease of operation, steel adaptor bushing, and heavy duty compound linkage. Boy, that was a mouthful of features!

I've been using my new "Big Boss" press for several months and have been very impressed with its overall quality and ease of operation, which is why serious handloaders have been using Redding reloading equipment all along. If you're in the market for a new single-stage reloading press, you'll be wise to check out "The Big Boss." It's all that and then some.

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BY JEFF JOHN

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From LaserMax

LaserMax introduces a new laser sighting system for the Springfield XD semi-automatic pistol with 4" and 5" barrels. The LaserMax system installs quickly inside the weapon, replacing the recoil spring assembly. The sight features a pulsing red/orange 635 nm beam to ensure fast target acquisition and increased accuracy, particularly in low light conditions. Contact LaserMax, 3495 Winton Pl., Bldg. "B," Rochester, NY 14623-2818, phone: (585) 272-5420, fax: (585) 272-5427, Web site: www.lasermx.com.



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New Turkey Load

From Winchester

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Alumina Accessories

From Leupold

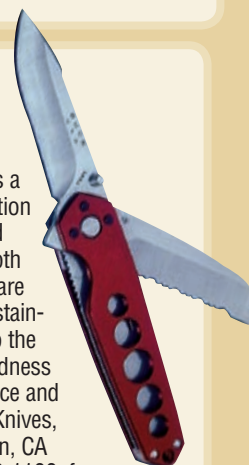
Leupold has created the new Alumina, a thread-on accuracy system for the Golden Ring line of riflescopes. Alumina accessories utilize available light to the best advantage and protect optics from dirt, rain and rough handling during the transportation process or adverse conditions in the field. Pictured is the new Alumina Intensifier Bronze lens. Contact Leupold & Stevens, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075-0688, phone: (503) 646-9171, Web site: www.leupold.com.



New One-Hand Rescue Knife

From Buck

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From Camoclad

Camoclad introduces a handy Realtree pattern camouflage kit to accent 4-wheelers, golf carts and ATVs. Made from 3M vinyl, the kits are scratchproof, waterproof and fade resistant and come in both removable and permanent applications. Pre-cut kits are also available for most Polaris models. Contact Camoclad, phone: (800) 585-8550, Web site: www.camoclad.com.



New Trailing Point Skinner

From George Tichbourne

Canadian master knife maker has created the new Trail Point Skinner. This beautifully designed working knife features a 3.38" 440X-OAL stainless steel blade with a super sharp edge for maximum cutting power and field dressing performance. The Monel bolsters are hand ground and the stunning Cocobolo hardwood handle has stainless steel pins for long life. Contact George Tichbourne, 7035 Maxwell Rd., #5, Mississauga, Ontario L5S 1R5, Canada, phone: (905) 670-0200, Web site: www.tichbourne.com.



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From Streamlight

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From Kleen-Bore

Kleen-Bore's Field Pack Cleaning Kit is now available in a tan field pouch, adding an element of camouflage for use in desert, swamp or sandy environments. The kit includes a four-section cleaning rod with snap-down handle, an accessory adapter, nylon bristle brush, slotted patch holder and cotton cleaning patches, as well as, silicone gun cloth and Formula 3 Gun Conditioner. Contact Kleen-Bore, 16 Industrial Pkwy, Easthampton, MA 01027, phone: (413) 527-0300, fax: (413) 527-2522, Web site: www.kleen-bore.com.



GOT BUTTER?

Some Nifty Gadgets From Spyderco.

Kim "Commando" Terlecky

When I was asked to do a new column in *GUNS* magazine about products that I enjoyed, the first question I asked was "Can it be knives?" Once I got my yes, the second question was, "Can it be Spyderco?" I have always been a big fan of Spyderco knives, so I felt it only appropriate to give them a little time in the spotlight. There are three particular knives I had in mind that were just perfect for my first column.

The one I am most amused by is the Delica Trainer. This basically is like a folding butter knife to me. While the purpose is actually for it to be a training knife, I can't help but giggle when I see it every time I open. I always joke about having to defend myself from an evil slab of butter ... but in all seriousness, this knife is useful. It helps learn drills, actions and reactions with an unsharpened blade and also helps you practice without the fear of hurting yourself or someone else. The length of the knife is about 7" with the blade being 3". There is no cutting edge, but the blade thickness is 3/32", made out of AUS-6 steel. The total weight is about 2 ounces. So, if you're ever in the market for doing some practical knife training, or just want to go after that evil pat of butter, I suggest the Delica.

The Jester is one of my personal favorites. It's small enough for me to carry in a pocket or purse without having to worry about it being too bulky. The one pictured has a serrated blade, but the Jester's also can come with smooth blades as well. The length overall is about 4 3/8", with a closed length of 2 1/2". The blade length itself is 1 1/4" crafted from AUS-6 steel. And the weight is a minimal 1.36 ounces. I bet you could safely tuck this in a shirt pocket without having to worry about it showing through.

The D'allara knife is a heavy duty rescue knife, but has a little bit of a story behind it. The knife is named after a NYPD officer named John D'allara, a long-time Spyderco collector who never made it out of the World Trade Center on 9/11. So, the knife is a way to remember John and also it keeps all the other LEOs and EMTs in mind. Like most other rescue knives, this knife has a rounded sheepfoot blade and no pointed tip. It is evenly thick from heel to tip, and the blade is hollow-ground VG-10. The blade length is 3 1/2" with the knife having an overall length of 8" open. Tucked inside the handle are rigid dual steel liners and a ball bearing lock. The lock has a heavy-duty level strength rating, meaning the lock holds more weight. Both the lock and the tension wire clip are ambidextrous.

All of these knives and more can be found at www.spyderco.com.



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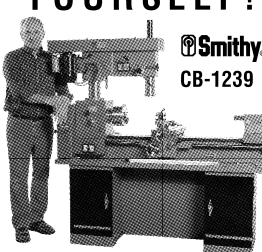
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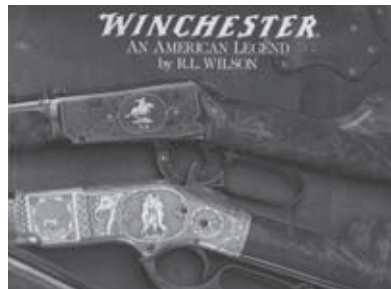
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JOHN CONNOR

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Okay, maybe my life's been a little different. I guess not too many people have taken advanced scatology studies from bronze-age warriors — how to identify “friend or foe” by takin’ apart their poop with a twig — or had a monkey pee down their shirt collar while leaning against his tree, tryin’ to grab some Z’s. At the time, I didn’t know I was gathering writing material. I just thought I had an interesting job. Fiction can be fascinating, but for sheer maniacal madness and loose-screw lunacy, nothin’ beats reality. Here’s some examples.

Weird Crime

Sick and tired of hearing about how guns commit crimes, and all the ills of man can be traced back to firearms? Historically, guns are relative Johnny-come-latelies in the field of human homicide. And, people bein’ the crafty kill-crazed critters they are, they’re constantly inventing new ways to whack

Yeah, you might think that death by alcohol poisoning may be more pleasant than takin’ two 7.62s in the boiler room and losing your attempt to set a record in the “100-Meter Low Crawl With a Sucking Chest Wound,” but dudes, somehow the mere thought of *death by enema* gives me the *serious willies*. I’ll take the incoming, thank you.

From Across the Pond

For sheer silliness in the Great Gun Debacle, you can’t beat our English cousins. You know about the “armed police” in England, right? After disarming the law-abiding citizens and leaving only criminals armed with guns, Great Britain soon vaulted to the number-one spot among industrialized nations in armed assaults. This made life a bit sticky for the unarmed bobbies, so the Brits recruited and trained some officers to carry guns, and deal with firearms-toting bad guys. The basic premise is, when the regular “unloaded” bobbies step in some deep kim-chee, they pull back and whistle up the armed troops.

This should have made things jollier in Liverpool, but the problem is, the zoo is still overseen and operated by gun-hating bureaucrats and fuzzy-wigged liberal judges. Time after time, legal decisions have come down against those armed police, ruining careers, emptying their bank accounts, and some-

times jailing them with the crooks they’ve fought. Recently, some of ‘em broke under the last straw.

Let The Games Begin

Police had a tip, including name and description, of an alleged armed Irish terrorist who would be exiting a bar carrying a sawn-off shotgun. The tip later proved to be false and apparently maliciously placed, but the confrontation occurred for real. There was the suspect, carrying a short, wrapped cylindrical object, and although details are sketchy, it appears that he failed to comply with certain instructions, like dropping the packet and putting his hands up. The officers capped him and he later expired. When the scattergun-like object turned out to be a table leg wrapped in newspaper, the games began.



each other without benefit of powder and slug. A new favorite of mine comes to us from Houston, Texas. There, Tammy Jean Warner, 42, was recently charged with killing her 58-year old husband Michael — by givin’ him a sherry enema.

Yep. She hooked up two bottles of sherry to an enema tube, pumped Michael to the max, and raised his blood-alcohol level to a lethal .47 percent, killin’ him deader’n a cockroach on the kitchen floor. She said she did it because a throat ailment left him unable to drink his favorite sherry, and she was just helpin’ him out. She mighta gotten away with it, but the police learned she had burned Michael’s will the month before. In that document, he had left the bulk of his assets to a daughter from a previous marriage. It seems Tammy wasn’t happy with that. They took another look.

When the first inquest concluded, the officers were ruled justified, based on the fact that they had acted appropriately on the information they had and the situation they encountered. This, of course, did not sit well with the Warm-'n-Fuzzies, who felt that since the *outcome* was bad, the officers must have *done* something bad. A second inquest resulted in their suspensions, pending charges. That ruling also paved the way for civil suits with the potential to impoverish their great-grandkiddies. The Fuzzies were tickled. The armed police were not. The message was clear.

By the following Tuesday, 120 of London's 400 armed police had turned in their guns and firearms authorization cards. Carry guns and incur grave risk for a society that wouldn't back them up? No, thanks. They decided that the courts and bureaucrats were far more dangerous than the armed criminals they might face.

BBC FUZZ

The same week, I reviewed a news article about the explosive growth and "effectiveness" of Britain's most feared and hated law enforcement agency — the *Telly Police*. In England, if you own a TV, it is presumed you watch the BBC, even if you hate that crap and never tune in. Nonetheless, you are legally required to buy an annual "TV license" for about \$233, which goes to subsidize BBC's "politically approved programmes." If caught TV-owning without a license, first-time offenders can draw fines of \$1,923 or even jail time. Repeat offenders get the Zenith thrown at 'em, and 20 illegal TV-watchers went to prison last year.

Twenty people hittin' the joint may seem small, but keep in mind it's all about the money. If you're in the Big House, you can't pay the big bucks. The real story lies in the fact that TV fee-evasion charges now make up 12 percent of magistrate cases nationwide, 1,000 illegal TV-watchers are caught *per day* — 380,000 per year — and the Telly Police are now equipped with hand-held electronic devices which can detect TV-viewing while TP's drive or stroll down the street outside. And yes, Virginia, they do get warrants for "TV searches" based on high-tech sniffery. Nothing like having your public-safety priorities in order, right?

All's peachy unless and until they run into some armed, obstinate dude who refuses to cooperate. Then the bobbies are called. And if they're met with a gun, they can call, ummm ... well, maybe not the armed police. There may not be any around. Maybe "GhostBusters" or something.

Perhaps the suspect could be threatened with administration of a sherry enema ... See what I mean? Who needs an imagination when you've got the news?



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ADVERTISER'S INDEX

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Mag-na-port Int'l	86
Masters of Defense	25
Midway USA	64
Miley Realty & Auction	87
Mitchell's Mausers	63
MTM Molded Products	71
One Stop Knife Shop	29
Otis Technology	3
Paladin Press	62
Pearce Grip	64
Personakey	64
Precision Sights	77
Rock River Arms	6
S & K Scope Mounts	62
Savage Arms	32
Shoot Magazine	67
Shooter's Choice Gun Care	86
Sierra Bullets	73
SigArms	13, 21
Sinclair Int'l	59
SOG Specialty Knives	58
Springfield Inc.	7, 27
Steiner	15
Sturm Ruger & Co.	C2
TruGlo Inc.	31, 33
Wilson Combat	67

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
Advanced Technology	17	El Paso Saddlery	70
Airforce Airguns	71	FlashCo Inc.	79
Al Mar Knives	13	FNH USA	35
American Historical	9	Fobus USA	68
American Security	68	Fort Knox Security	62
Les Baer Custom	12	Glock Inc.	C3
Benchmade Knives	17	Greco Knives	75
Berger Bullets	42	Groves Edge	73
Blade Art Inc.	70	GSM/Knockout	19
Bushmaster Firearms	34	Hogue Grips	66
Camillus Cutlery	26	Horus Vision	24
Cannon Safe	23	IMR Powder Co.	33
Clark Custom Guns	66	Iosso Products	75
Close Quarters Concealment	43	Jantz Supply	74
Columbia River Knife & Tool	34	Kahr Arms	72
Crimson Trace Corp.	29	Kimber	C4
CZ USA	21	Kirkpatrick Leather	72
Desantis Holster	65	Knife Mart	26
Devtron Scopecoat	75	Knife Outlet	70
Diamond Sentry Distributors	70	Lee Precision	78
Dynamit Nobel	65	Lyman Products	87

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CAMPFIRE TALES

Continued from page 90

has been the forerunner of the 1950 Target, a.k.a. the 4th Model Hand Ejector, and that is the 1926 Model or 3rd Model Hand Ejector. Over the years I have seen these in excellent shape with high dollar prices or in beater condition neither of which appealed to me. Then I received a call from a reader in the Northwest alerting me to the sale of another like new 4" Smith & Wesson .44 Special that turned out to be a fixed sighted 1926 Model with the kicker being that it was made the same year I was. The price was in between the pair of 24s and the 1950 Target, and again I was most happy to acquire it.

SAA's

Colt Single Actions, especially 1st Generation "shooters," are a particular personal passion. For me, finding excellent shooting examples without help is almost impossible these days. Enter a reader, in fact one of our advertisers, from Oregon. He called to let me know that a local dealer had three old Colts for sale. Calling him I was informed that they were a 7 1/2" .44-40 Frontier Six-Shooter c. 1879; and two 4 3/4" Model Ps, one a .32-20 from 1902, and the other a .45 Colt made the same year the United States entered the Great War. They were described as being in good working order with all the original parts including the grips, however, they had been stored for over 50 years and had very little finish left.

An offer was made without seeing them and I was told by the gun shop owner he would get back to me. He called me later to say he had a higher bid, which I matched, and I heard the gratifying: "They are yours if you want them." The .44-40 had no finish whatsoever and the "Frontier Six-Shooter" on the left side of the barrel was barely readable. It was however in excellent mechanical shape, the cylinder locked up extremely tight, and it still had the original one-piece wooden stocks. Both of the 4 3/4" Model Ps had some blue and case coloring left with the .32-20 being in exceptionally fine shape.

The worst of the bunch was the .45 Colt. It had some pitting on the barrel, which I viewed as adding to its character, however, the cylinder was quite loose. It was packed up and shipped off to Peacemaker Specialists for a total rebuild of the interior parts and to have all screws replaced. The originals were all placed in my parts box in order to return it to the original shape if for some reason I ever desired to do so. This particular sixgun had the very rare 1st Generation black eagle grips. Rare enough in fact that Eddie Janis of Peacemaker Specialists offered to trade me a set of aged one-piece ivory stocks carved in the fleur-de-lis pattern for them. I did not hesitate for a second. I now have a tuned to perfection .45 Colt that looks to be 100 years old while performing like a brand-new sixgun.

Even though these three great examples of 1st Generation sixguns cost less than three current production Colt SAAs, it was necessary to soak my plastic card in ice water to keep it from going up in flames. The ice had barely melted when a reader directed me to the website of the Morris Watch Shop. It may be labeled as a watch shop, however it is in actuality a very large gun shop.

Missed Opportunities

Ten years earlier I had walked the aisles of the Reno Gun Show trying to decide whether or not to buy a cased set of 1873-1973 Colt Peacemaker Centennials consisting of a 7 1/2" US marked Cavalry .45 Colt and a nickel plated .44-40 Frontier Six-Shooter with the same barrel length. I finally decided to pass in one of the rare moments that I've ever showed restraint, and have regretted it ever since. Now at the Morris Watch Shop I found examples of the same sixguns, unfired, in the presentation cases for five dollars less than those I had seen 10 years earlier. What to do? I simply added a little more ice to my plastic card and bought them. I guess it was meant to be for me to always have a running tab when it comes to sixguns.

I'm sure there are many readers out there who know where there are sixguns I would be interested in, very definitely interested in. Please don't tell me about them. The little plastic card is still sizzling and I'm about to run out of ice.

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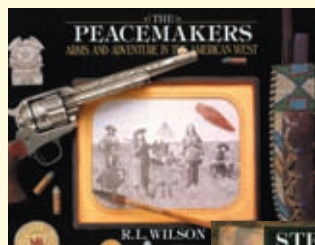
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CAMPFIRE TALESTM

BY JOHN TAFFIN

TRADIN' GUNS 21ST CENTURY STYLE

Until the passage of the GCA '68 (Gun Control Act of 1968, more often labeled the Infamous Gun Control Act), trading guns in this country was relatively simple. Magazines were filled with ads allowing anyone to order by mail. Thousands upon thousands of military surplus firearms, such as S&W and Colt Model 1917s, Colt 1911s, Enfield and Webley revolvers, along with such long guns as Springfield 1903s, Enfield 1917s, SMLEs, and Model 98 Mausers, were sold with little or no red tape, paperwork, or questions. My first 1911 and Springfield '03 came from the NRA and were delivered to me, a 17-year-old, by Railway Express. They both cost less than \$15 each. For nearly 25 years following WWII this was normal procedure and few if any were ever used for criminal acts.

Thirty-five years after passage of GCA '68, there are no more ads offering such useful firearms; a federal firearms license is needed, in most cases, to transfer guns across state lines; and everyone purchasing a firearm from a dealer must either have a concealed weapons permit or go through a background check. Supposedly all of this was set up to control crime but in actuality all it does is put further controls on honest

citizens. Welcome to the 21st century.

Also long gone are the days when it was possible to cross into Mexico and trade guns. Remember Skeeter Skeleton's story of trading a new .38/44 for a Colt Single Action Army south of the border? Now anyone taking a handgun into Mexico or Canada has a good chance of never being seen in polite society again. Gun trading surely still exists however in a much different form. I also have to define what I mean by "trading." I rarely trade a gun for a gun. My trading material is normally folding green or small plastic. My wife prefers it this way as her family normally lives into their 90s, while I have long ago passed the life expectancy of the male members of my family. She figures to spend several years, perhaps decades, living off of my guns by trading them back for cash as needed. To her, another gun brought into the house is just another piece of her future security.

Sources

Most of the sixguns I trade for come from two sources, readers and the Internet. There are many readers out there who know what I like and the Internet can be invaluable if one knows with whom one

is dealing. In the past several years I have purchased or traded for a half-dozen plus sixguns through the Internet, while finding four more thanks to sharp-eyed readers. In every case, the revolvers I wound up with were as good or better than advertised.

I do not spend hours searching the Internet for bargains nor do I visit auction sites. My so-called surfing has been limited to two sites for the past four years, those being sixgunner.com and sixguns.com. During this time I have found several .44 Special S&Ws. One of the posters had an unfired pair of Model 24s, the 4" Smith & Wessons made in 1983. They were very reasonably priced, so much so that my wife purchased them without any bargaining, very unusual for her, and presented them to me for my birthday. These sixguns were the descendants of the very rare pre-Model 24 4" 1950 Target Models produced at mid century. After 30 years of looking for one of the latter, I actually found one posted on one of the above web sites. Its price was more than the asking price for the pair of Model 24s, however, I was delighted to find one even at that price. It was advertised as being almost new and it certainly was. Its acquisition ended an almost endless longing.

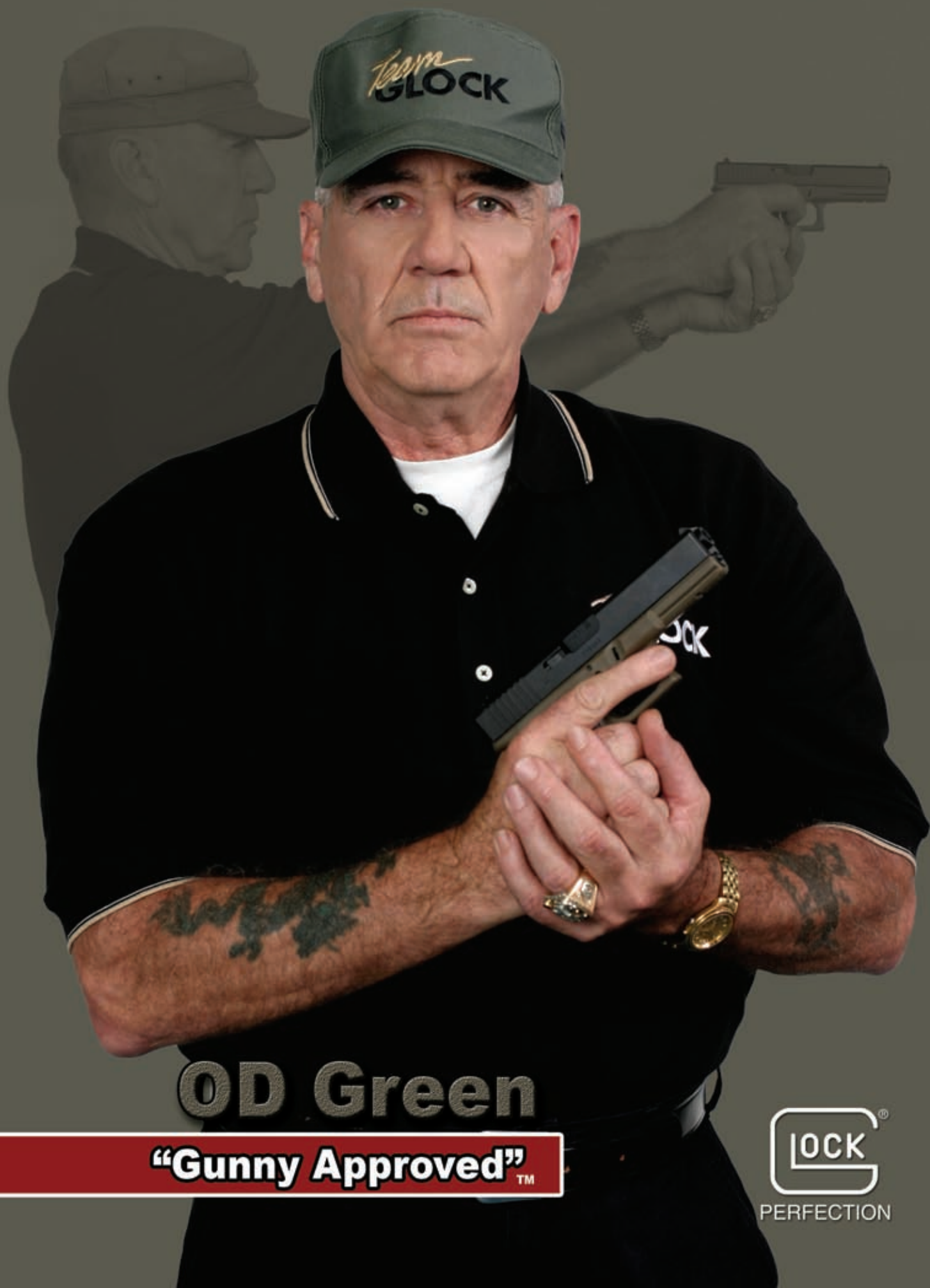
Finally

Another .44 Special Smith & Wesson I have been searching for seemingly forever

continued on page 89



These S&W .44 Specials and Colt Single Action Armies were all found 21st century style — with a computer.



OD Green

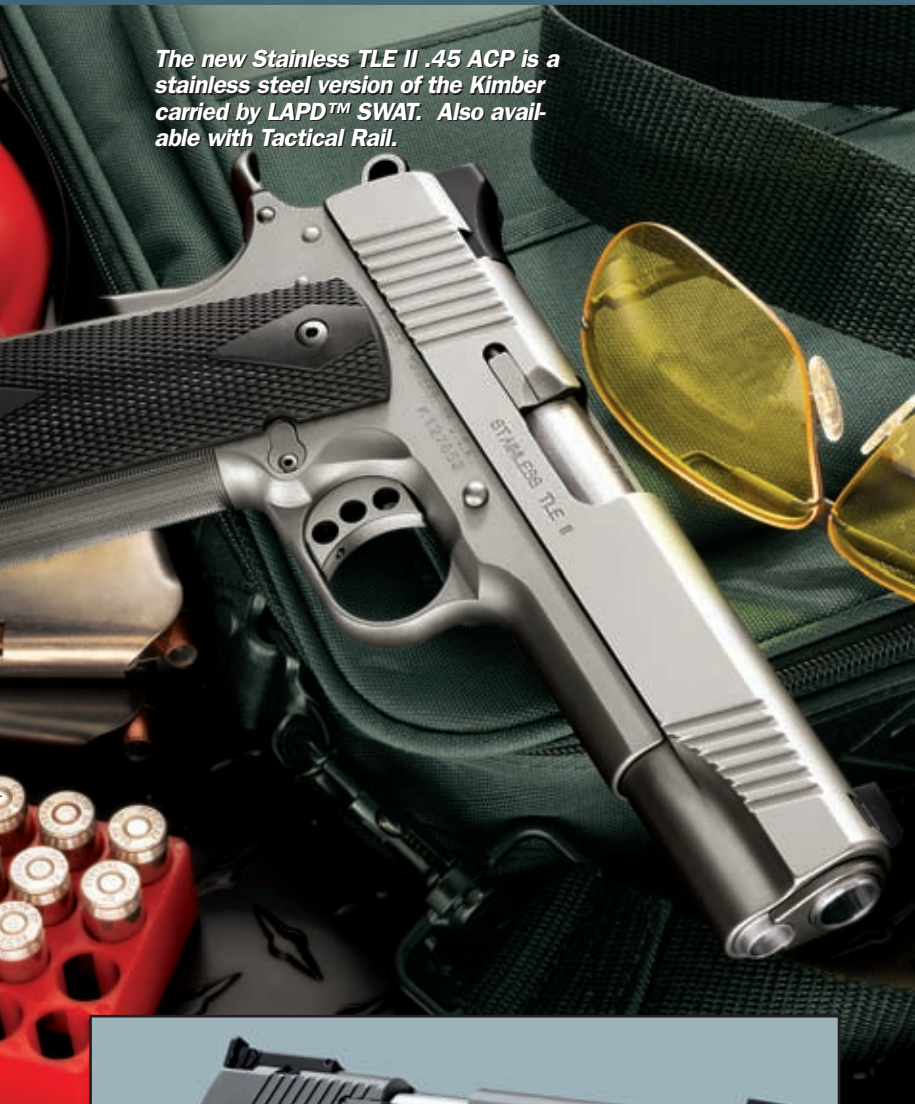
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