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Firearm Artist James Triggs

Exploded View: Luger P08

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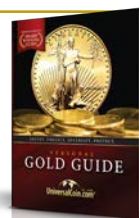
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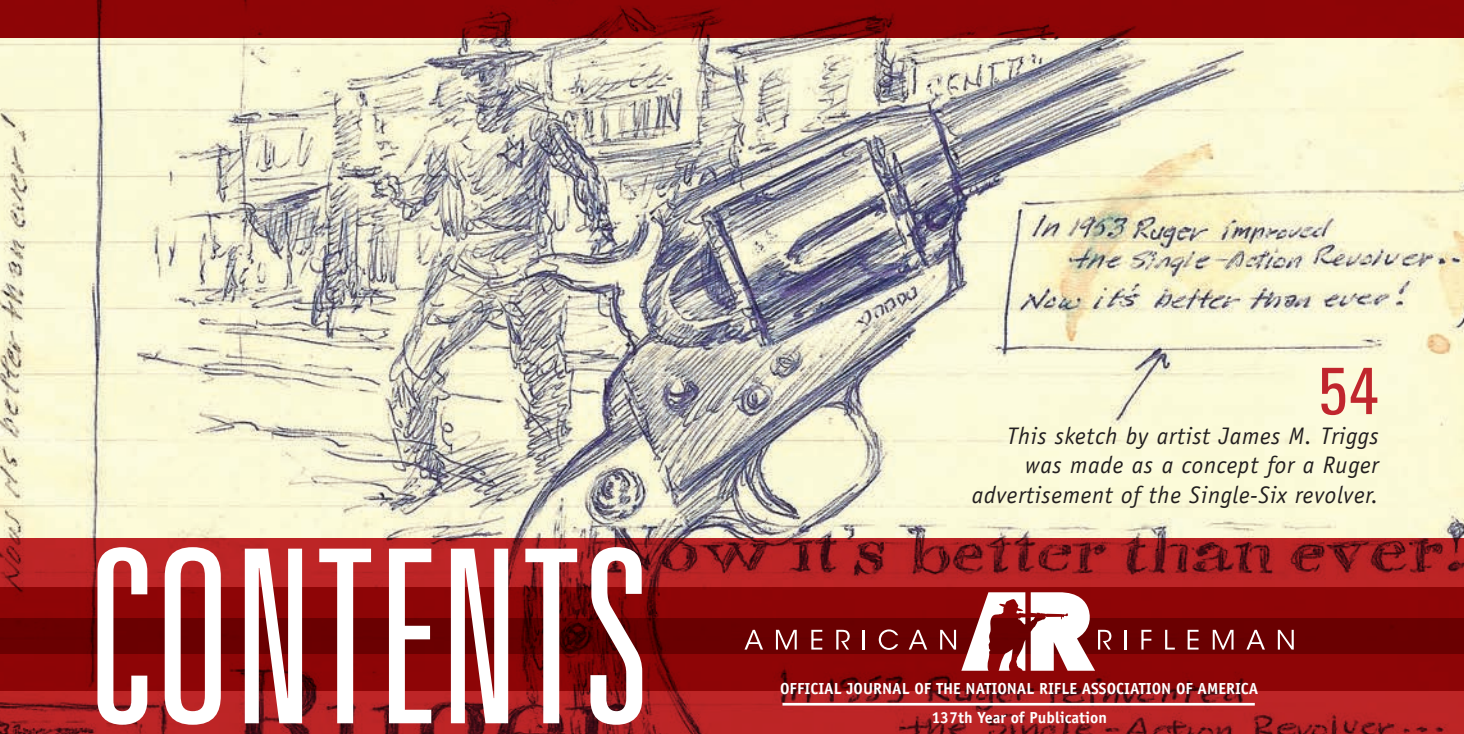
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This sketch by artist James M. Triggs was made as a concept for a Ruger advertisement of the Single-Six revolver.

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AMERICAN  RIFLEMAN
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
137th Year of Publication

AUGUST 2023
VOLUME 171,
No. 8

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to “keep and bear arms,” believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

Wayne R. LaPierre,
Executive Vice
President

features

Try Enforcement Before “Reform” 18

Randy Kozuch Gun-control activists are constantly pressing for new, more-restrictive gun laws, when the laws already on the books aren’t even being consistently enforced.

Rossi On The Rise 40

Jeremiah Knupp First known for its small-caliber revolvers and lever-action rifles chambered for revolver cartridges, Rossi now offers three models of .357 Mag. double-action wheelguns—and a host of new long guns to boot.

Remington’s New Heavy Hitter: 360 Buckhammer 48

Frank Melloni Designed to accommodate hunting regulations requiring straight-wall cartridges, Big Green’s latest deerslayer proves that hitting hard doesn’t have to hurt.

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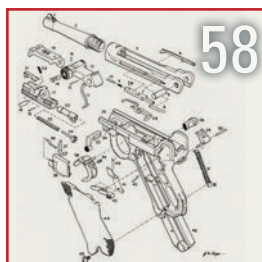
Don Findley A unique combination of firearm artist and mechanical draftsman, James Triggs contributed heavily to the world of firearm illustration—and to our understanding of how guns work.

Exploded View: Luger P08 58

James M. Triggs The Luger’s method of operation is unorthodox by today’s standards, as is its takedown procedure; here’s the proper way to fieldstrip this iconic early 20th century pistol.

“I Am Freedom”: NRA Members Send A Message In Indy 60

NRA Staff Presenting a united front against the gun-grabbing elites, more than 77,000 freedom-loving NRA members stood together at the 2023 Annual Meetings & Exhibits in April.



THE COVER: After a brief hiatus, Rossi is back in the revolver game with a trio of models that run the gamut of .357 Mag. applications—along with a variety of rimfire and centerfire long guns. For more, see Field Editor Jeremiah Knupp’s report starting on p. 40.

Design by David Labrozzi, Photo by Forrest MacCormack

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The .300 Norma Magnum: History & Performance

The ultra-fast .300 Norma Magnum cartridge has its roots in the belted hunting cartridges of yesteryear, but it has proven itself capable of more than just hunting in the 21st century.

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Making Churchill Shotguns

July 26

150 Years Of Colt's Single Action Army; Remington 360 Buckhammer; Colt's Police Positive

August 2

On Location: Making EAA's Churchill Shotgun;

Springfield Armory Saint Victor Carbine In 9 mm Luger; Wheellock Carbine

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August 16

Civilian Marksmanship Program Garand Match; Taurus 605 T.O.R.O. In .357 Mag.;

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Legendary “special herb” gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Leading the way from nature’s pharmacy is the new “King of Oils” that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

Biblical scholars treasured this “holy oil.” Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears’ attention is how modern medical findings now prove this “King of Oils” can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won’t give you all the relief you need.

Doctors and scientists now confirm the “King of Oils”—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes “on” or “off.” A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is “so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints.”

Relief That’s 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is,



*The active ingredient in **Mobilify** soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days*

the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense “significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days.” That’s relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That’s a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and

natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, “**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast.” Shirley M. adds, “Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase.” Larry M. says, “After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it’s almost like being reborn.” And avid golfer Dennis H. says, “I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried.”

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new **Mobilify** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-490-1388** TODAY. “It’s not available in retail stores yet,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer.” Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Mobilify**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I’ll send you all your money back.”

Use Promo Code **ARMB723** when you call to secure your supply of **Mobilify**. Lines are frequently busy and due to heightened demand, supplies are limited. To secure your supply today, call **1-800-490-1388**.



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THE RIFLEMAN REPORT

Publishing magazines can be a bit like cooking—or, perhaps more appropriately for a firearm journal, like reloading ammunition: Years of experience and an abundance of care are applied in a consistent manner using a series of quality “ingredients” or components to develop well-balanced “recipes” aimed at specific “tastes” or uses.

Our approach to building each issue of *American Rifleman* follows just such a pattern. We carefully select topics for coverage and assign them to staff or contributing editors whose experience and skill includes choosing the appropriate words and images that will form thorough, even-handed reviews of guns and gear. The result is designed to satiate your appetite for knowledge about firearms and their manufacture, history and use.

In this month's cover story, “Rossi On The Rise” (p. 40), Field Editor Jeremiah Knupp brings us up to date on the state of an underappreciated Brazilian brand whose small-caliber revolvers and revolver-cartridge lever-action rifles have earned it accolades from many American shooters in the past and whose new medium-frame, double-action .357 Mag. revolvers—and rimfire and centerfire long guns—should help to re-invigorate the Rossi name among even more shooters today.

In “Remington's New Heavy Hitter: 360 Buckhammer” (p. 48) by Frank Melloni, the author explains how one of the latest developments in straight-wall-cartridge design came into being and provides a firsthand report on how it works in the field. Based on the rimmed American classic .30-30 Winchester, the new cartridge appears to deliver on its promise of enhanced performance for hunters in cartridge-regulated states who are seeking to definitively stop whitetail deer and other medium game in their tracks at moderate ranges.

“Artistry In Arms: The Life Of James Martin Triggs” (p. 54), by longtime contributor Don Findley, pays tribute to a rare talent whose pencil sketches and color paintings of popular guns served a variety of firearm industry companies through advertising pieces and parts drawings



and sparked the imaginations of gun buyers for decades. We decided to complement that story with one of our signature “Exploded View” treatments, this time of the Luger P08 pistol (p. 58), authored and illustrated by Triggs himself for use in these pages 65 years ago. It explores the Luger's history, use and method of operation, which is unorthodox by today's standards, along with the proper way to take down and re-assemble the classic, early 20th century semi-automatic.

Also, if you weren't able to attend this year's NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis, we've provided a recap (p. 60) that will fill you in on some of the events and personalities that attracted a crowd numbering more than 77,000 during the three-day extravaganza of Second Amendment freedom. Take it as a reminder to schedule a trip to next year's event—the 153rd NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits set for May 17-19 in Dallas.

Of course, this month's “Dope Bag” (p. 64) contains the kind of thorough evaluations of firearms and gear—in this case, an optic-ready 9 mm pistol from EAA/Girsan, a carbon-fiber-enhanced bolt-action rifle in 6.5 mm Creedmoor from Howa, a 10"-barreled, .460 S&W Mag.-chambered revolver from Taurus and a thermal optic from AccuFire—that have distinguished our brand for many years.

And, back to the theme at the top of this column, don't forget to check out Handloads (p. 72) and its description of “A Just-Right .41 Mag.” recipe. It's only one of the many useful “morsels” you'll find in this issue as we continue to celebrate our 100th anniversary this year under the *American Rifleman* nameplate. With each issue, we'll continue to strive to provide you with magazines that are as satisfying to consume as they are to put together.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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A Memphis family visited Little Rock, Ark., for their daughter's seventh birthday, taking her and their other daughter to the water parks and zoo there on Memorial Day. When they were ready to leave, they put the two girls in the vehicle and the mother, who was pregnant, sat in the driver's seat while her husband packed up the car in a parking garage. However, an attacker came up to the man, struck him multiple times and tackled him to the ground, then came up to the wife and punched her. The wife drew her gun and shot the attacker in the neck. "We never know what he was really planning or anything," said the father, "if he was trying to kidnap our girls or just trying to steal the car or what." The wife suffered contusions on her forehead and the father a fractured rib, while the assailant remained in the hospital. (kark.com, Little Rock, Ark., 5/31/23)

Neighbors called a homeowner in Shelby County, Tenn., to inform him that several men were milling around his vehicles. The homeowner went outside to investigate and saw two men in his driveway and two other men in a white sedan parked in the middle of his street. The unknown men saw him and took off running, but one of the men also reportedly turned and shot at the homeowner, striking him in the ankle. The armed citizen returned fire and the assailant and other suspects fled. One of the suspects was later arrested after knocking on doors in the neighborhood and yelling into his phone "Y'all left me; come pick me up!" (wreg.com, Memphis, Tenn., 2/10/23)

Three men allegedly attempted a home invasion April 23 in Gwinnett County, Ga. When the homeowner heard a knock and cracked open his door, the strangers reportedly kicked it in and began firing at him. Although he sustained an injury, the homeowner managed to return fire, killing one of the assailants and causing the others to flee. The two other men were arrested and are expected to face charges of felony murder for the death of their accomplice; the homeowner was not charged. (wsbtv.com, Atlanta, Ga., 5/17/23)

In Beaumont, Texas, a homeowner shot and wounded a man who reportedly had broken into his house in the middle of the night on May 19. Responding police saved the 43-year-old intruder's life by using a tourniquet to stop his bleeding and transported him to the hospital; he was to be charged with burglary upon release and held on a \$100,000 bond. The Beaumont Police spokesperson emphasized that the homeowner would face no charges: "The suspect is the one who broke the law and committed a crime, and as a result, he was shot." (12newsnow.com, Mauriceville, Texas, 5/22/23)

A homeowner in Towns County, Ga., arrived home a little after midnight on May 20. As she entered, she reportedly discovered an intruder in the home, walking toward her and wearing her husband's clothes. The woman drew her gun and held the suspect at gunpoint until police could arrive. Once they arrived, the robber allegedly attempted to flee, but deputies tackled him and arrested him. He was charged with felony burglary and was connected with vehicle robberies in the same area, so he faces an additional 20 counts of felony entering an automobile. (Towns County Sheriff's Office Facebook post, Towns County, Ga., 6/1/23)

When a 77-year-old homeowner in Ann Arbor, Mich., heard what sounded like someone opening his screen door around dinnertime on May 24, he found someone already in his kitchen. The stranger, a tall man who looked to be in his 20s, had apparently forced his way through a window over the sink. The homeowner fired one shot at the intruder, who fled through the same window. "He went out headfirst," the armed citizen told reporters. "He was younger than me, no doubt stronger than me. I'm 77 years old and he was in my house and I defended myself." Police were still investigating the matter at the time of reporting. (wxyz.com, Detroit, Mich., 5/25/23)

A 24-year-old man returning to his car from a mall in Chicago, Ill., on May 28, was approached by two suspected carjackers. At least one of the alleged assailants was armed and reportedly began firing on the car owner, but he drew his own firearm and returned fire, shooting one of them in the thigh. The injured suspect was arrested after being treated at the hospital; the other suspect was caught only a few minutes after the attempted carjacking. (foxnews.com, Chicago, Ill., 5/31/23) 

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By Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

NRA Strong!

I get asked all the time: "What does the future of our freedom look like?" The question often relates to a specific policy debate taking place in Washington, D.C., or to the possible outcome of an upcoming election or to a big Second Amendment case being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

But if you really want to see what the future of our freedom looks like, look no further than our recent, massive gathering of more than 77,000 NRA members and patriots at our Annual Meetings and celebration weekend in Indianapolis. Together, we showed all of America that freedom's future is forever protected by the men and women of the National Rifle Association!

The mainstream media frequently tries to depict NRA as a faceless corporate entity. It's all part of their decades-long, calculated strategy to dehumanize NRA members and reduce us to nothing more than a concrete building just outside our nation's capital.

And yet, every year at our big annual gathering, we force the partisan hacks in the media to confront the blatant truth: The National Rifle Association of America is the largest assembly of gun-owning, freedom-loving patriots in the country!

In fact, NRA is the only powerhouse capable of holding a major event that attracts tens of thousands of members and supporters—year after year after year.

And that's why every year, our nation's most-influential freedom fighters take time out of their busy schedules to come and meet with us. They know, as you and I do, that NRA's most-powerful weapon is our membership. One by one, millions strong, it's you and your fellow NRA patriots who personally and powerfully shape the direction of freedom in America.

For all those who couldn't make it to Indy this year, I want to share with you just a little of what some of our Second Amendment allies had to say.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, whose wife Janet is a certified NRA pistol instructor, delivered a warm and welcoming address to all NRA members and told us: "Thank you for standing strong on this side of freedom and this side of the wall!"

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem took to the stage and signed an executive order blocking her state's agencies from doing business with any financial institutions that discriminate against businesses in the firearms community.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson: "It's such a privilege to be here today. Thank you for fighting for our freedoms through the years!"

Former Vice President Mike Pence: "It's good to be back with all the patriots of the

NRA—men and women who stand on the ramparts of freedom, defending all the God-given liberties enshrined in the Constitution of the United States every day."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis: "I want to thank the National Rifle Association for all you do to preserve, protect and defend the Second Amendment rights of the American people."

Former South Carolina Gov. and Ambassador Nikki Haley: "The NRA has been a great partner for a long time. When I was governor, we worked together as I expanded the Castle Doctrine, we backed constitutional carry, we did reciprocity with my sister state, Georgia, and so much more."

Sen. Tim Scott: "I am excited to have an A rating from the NRA. I will always stand in the gap to make sure Americans are the best, safest people on Earth. Unfortunately, the radical left, they want Americans to be unsafe and unarmed. But not on my watch!"

FREEDOM'S FUTURE IS FOREVER PROTECTED BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NRA!

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu: "I was out there walking the floor today seeing all the incredible manufacturers and thousands of people getting excited about ... freedom, the individual opportunity to be part of something a little bit bigger than ourselves. That is exactly what America is all about."

Sen. Mike Braun: "The right to defend yourself and your family is in our Constitution. It's a moral right and a solemn duty."

U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan: "I just came to say, 'thank you.' Thank you for being in the fight. Thank you for being part of this great organization that is committed to protecting freedom."

Vivek Ramaswamy: "I grew up in an anti-gun household ... but the reason I became a gun owner is that the Second Amendment was made for moments like today."

Former President Donald Trump: "I'm proud to be back with the hard-working, God-fearing, card-carrying patriots of the NRA ... I want to thank the NRA members who make up this incredible organization. It's really a tremendous force for freedom!"

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being an NRA member. As long as NRA is millions strong, the future of our freedom will always be bright!



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Knife Versus Snake

Next time something slithers too close, be prepared!

Some years ago, my girlfriend and I visited the Southwest town of Sedona. It's a wonderful place. While jewelry stores, art galleries and upscale boutiques have crept into Sedona's downtown, the air still maintains an electric charge. In one of these Sedona stores I acquired a Bowie knife that soon proved well worth the sticker price.

Disappearing into the stunning red rock formations that Sedona is known for, my girlfriend and I set out to hike Bell Rock, a butte just south of that famous desert town. We couldn't have been happier.

Our happiness didn't last long. Before we knew it, we stumbled upon a rather nasty diamondback rattlesnake. Acting quickly, I pulled my Bowie knife out of its holster and gave Mr. Snake a quick shave. We were lucky. Not only did my skill with a knife ensure our safety, but I had the makings for a new rattlesnake belt.

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The Sport That Makes America Safer

Americans are voting with their wallets, and Second Amendment freedom is selling like hotcakes! The most-recent statistics as this was being written show that last month—for the 46th month in a row—Americans bought more than a million firearms. That's 50 million firearms over the past four years alone. In fact, April 2023 saw the third-highest monthly gun-sales total since background-check figures started being tallied 30 years ago.

It's easy to see why. With crime skyrocketing in many cities, and with President Biden and his anti-gun allies vowing to ban many of the most-popular firearms on the market, Americans are investing in their families' security while they still have a chance.

Not surprisingly, many of these firearm purchasers are first-timers. From January 2020 to April 2021, more than 5 million Americans became first-time gun owners. That's more than double the number of first-time purchasers in 2019.

One of the most important things we can do, as NRA members and fellow gun owners, is to help these millions of new gun owners become millions of safe gun owners. How? By helping them not only to own Second Amendment freedom, but also to exercise it as well.

The highest purpose of a firearm is to protect innocent lives. For America's newest gun owners, this is often their number-one reason for buying their first firearm.

But simply owning a gun isn't enough. Being prepared to protect yourself takes practice. I've been a firearms instructor for over 40 years. I believe in training and practice. That said, I don't want to be perceived as someone who would deny Second Amendment freedom to anyone based upon a lack of formal training. People without any training often successfully defend themselves with firearms in their homes and elsewhere. However, luck is not a prudent defensive strategy. Confidence comes only with competence, which in turn requires experience. Gun-safety habits only become ingrained through repetition, familiarity, "muscle memory" and the instinctive discipline that results from training. (You can learn more about the effect this has on fear-reduction in Sheriff Jim Wilson's Straight Talk column "Controlling our Fear" in the June 2023 issue of NRA's *Shooting Illustrated*.)

So, I call on every NRA member to reach out to these new constituents and stakeholders in Second Amendment freedom. Because they need us, we need them, and whether or not they know it yet, they are our natural allies. Let me explain.

The legacy media and anti-gun lobby like to dismissively slur those buying firearms today as "a bunch of old white guys," but retailers know the truth: One Harvard study found

that about half of all gun purchases between 2019 and 2021 were by women. Between 2005 and 2020, the number of women gun owners increased by 77%. Minorities are also embracing their most-fundamental freedom. After the pandemic hit in 2020, retailers reported that firearm purchases increased by almost 60% among black Americans, nearly 50% among Hispanics and more than 40% among Asians.

Many of these new gun owners feel abandoned by the very politicians who pretend to protect them. For example, for many years, the anti-gun crowd tried to frighten women away from owning a gun, claiming that an attacker would only use it against them and suggesting they simply "give an attacker what he wants." What audacity!

Urban dwellers are also feeling betrayed, as big-city politicians not only refuse to protect them—by pushing progressive "defund the police" and "roll back prosecutions" policies—but also refuse to allow them to protect themselves, with gun bans and increasingly widespread "no carry" so-called "Gun Free Zones." How's that for "progress?"

Reverence and respect for freedom shouldn't be a partisan issue. The right to protect yourself is the most-fundamental right we have. It cuts across every demographic group. It is the one freedom that guarantees the safety of all of us, regardless of gender, race, income, heritage, class, creed or any other measure.

So, this August, for National Shooting Sports Month, do your part to welcome these new friends of firearm freedom. Consider hosting "women-only" gun-safety training and other events at your local range. Reach out to underserved communities in your area. Invite them to your gun club or range. Consider mentoring young or novice shooters.

You can go to home.nra.org/?FindNRANearYou to find NRA events in your hometown or to ssusa.org/coming-events to get a rundown of local competitions this month or to explore.nra.org/programs/clubs to find out how NRA can assist your gun club or range.

I believe there's a lot more we all can do to serve, inspire and activate these millions of new gun owners. Together, by sharing our knowledge and expertise with these new gun owners, we can ignite a passion for freedom among millions of additional Americans. In so doing, we can help perpetuate the same freedoms that protect our families and secure our nation as the birthright of future Americans.



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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
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Gun Control Is Unpopular

You, like me, probably get tired of hearing about just how “popular” various measures of gun control are from the mainstream media. It seems that not a day goes by without a new poll showing some outrageously high percentage of Americans support whatever happens to be the gun-control policy of the day.

When confronted with the fact that gun-control proponents have been unable to get policies enacted that they themselves claim are overwhelmingly popular, they often resort to blaming the NRA for “getting in the way” of these clearly “popular” policies. While it’s always flattering to have our political opponents compliment our work, and NRA members have been hugely responsible for defeating bad gun-control policies for decades, the simple truth is that most gun control is just unpopular.

To be clear, though, and no matter the public sentiment around any firearm policy, the Constitution doesn’t require our rights to be popular to receive constitutional protection. The Second Amendment prohibits burdens on the right to keep and bear arms, no matter how popular those burdens may be. As Justice Scalia put it in his landmark *Heller* opinion, “the enshrinement of constitutional rights necessarily takes certain policy choices off the table.”

But gun-control supporters have never let the Constitution get in their way, so what really explains why these supposedly wildly popular policies haven’t become law? The answer is simple: The claimed support for most gun-control policies is illusory, and the gun-control activists know it.

Last summer, *The New York Times* published an article entitled, “Voters Say They Want Gun Control. Their Votes Say Something Different,” which examined the large gap between alleged support for gun control and actual legislative results. Pollster Nate Cohn explained in the article that, while some polling may show significant support for the criminalization of private transfers, voter behavior makes clear that Americans are divided on the policy:

It’s one of the most puzzling questions for Democrats in American politics: Why is the political system so unresponsive to gun violence? Expanded background checks routinely receive more than 80% or 90% support in polling. Yet, gun control legislation usually gets stymied in Washington and Republicans never seem to pay a political price for their opposition.

After listing some of the usual explanations for this reality, Cohn noted, “But there’s another possibility, one that might be the most sobering of all for gun-control supporters:

Their problem could also be the voters, not just politicians or special interests.”

The author then proceeded to point out that, in every instance where so-called “universal background checks” appeared on the ballot, the policy wildly underperformed expectations based on polling.

For instance, based on survey data, 86% of Nevadans supposedly supported the criminalization of private transfers. However, when Nevadans went to the polls in 2016 to vote on the policy, the measure barely passed with 50.45% of the vote.

A similar story played out in Maine. According to the same article, 83% of Mainers were expected to support a background-check ballot measure in 2016. On election day, Maine residents voted the policy down, with 52% opposing the measure. Even in deep-blue states like Washington and California, private transfer ballot measures have underperformed expectations by about 20-30%.

Cohn went on to point out:

The usual theories for America’s conservative gun politics do not explain the poor showings. The supporters of the initiatives outspent the all-powerful gun lobby. All manner of voters, not just single-issue voters or politicians, got an equal say. The Senate was not to blame; indeed, the results suggested that a national referendum on background checks would have lost.

Cohn’s findings were consistent with an older NYT piece that examined the Maine ballot measure:

David Farmer, who led the Maine effort for universal background checks in 2016, said that supporters of gun rights can be particularly persuasive once a concrete proposal is unveiled. In Maine, polling support for the measure declined between introduction and the final vote, before failing, 52-48.

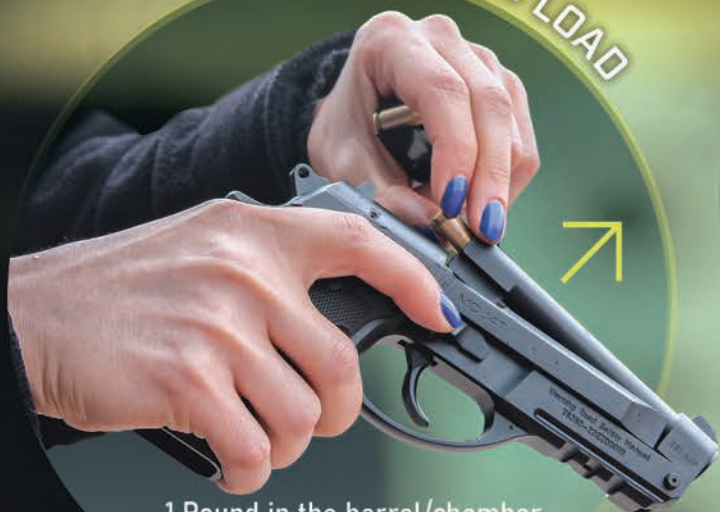
This suggests that as ignorance recedes, so does support for gun control. Despite this, much of the mainstream press continues to parrot the gun-control activists’ line on background-check support, and many voters seem to buy in—at least until they’re more educated on the topic. Hence the never-ending need for NRA, NRA-ILA and NRA members to continue educating the public on their Second Amendment rights.

The bottom line is that opinion polls can be manipulated, but the results of actual votes by educated voters at the polls speak for themselves. The Second Amendment remains as popular today as when it was enshrined in our Constitution more than 230 years ago.



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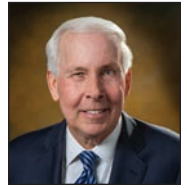
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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
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Try Enforcement Before “Reform”

Seeing that “gun control” is an unpopular term, anti-gun organizations have styled themselves as “gun-reform” advocates in recent years. Here, the term “reform” implies that U.S. gun laws are somehow insufficient and must be altered.

Contending that the nation’s current gun laws are inadequate is, at best, presumptive and, at worst, disingenuous. The truth is, no one even knows how the gun laws currently on the books might perform because these laws are so lightly enforced.

Consider the cornerstone of the U.S. federal gun law regime: the Gun Control Act of 1968 and its prohibition on firearm possession by certain categories of individuals. Found at 18 U.S.C. 922(g), this federal law prohibits convicted felons, fugitives from justice, illegal aliens, those who have been formally committed to a mental institution and others from possessing guns.

The penalty for violating this statute is severe. Illegal firearm possession by a prohibited person is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.

Further regulations concerning the transfer of firearms from Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs or gun dealers) are designed, in theory, to help enforce these prohibitions. A person buying a firearm from an FFL fills out ATF Form 4473, which asks the buyer if he falls into one of the prohibited categories. This form is then kept on file with the gun dealer.

Again, the penalties for lying on this form are severe. Lying on a Form 4473 is two different crimes. It is unlawful for a person to “make any false or fictitious oral or written statement” to a dealer “with respect to any fact material to the lawfulness of the sale.” This is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. It is also a crime to “knowingly make any false statement or representation with respect to the information required by this chapter to be kept in the records of [an FFL].” Violators face up to 5 years imprisonment.

To hear prominent gun-control advocates tell it, one of their crowning achievements was the enactment of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993. This legislation requires gun dealers to consult the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to see if

a buyer falls into any of the prohibited categories prior to transferring a firearm.

The result of these combined measures is a convoluted scheme that burdens law-abiding Americans’ right to access firearms, purportedly in a noble effort to catch the bad guys who would misuse firearms.

However, one look at the prosecution data concerning those who lie on Form 4473 suggests that encumbering the law-abiding is this scheme’s real primary function.

In September 2016, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General published a report titled, “Audit of the Handling of Firearms Purchase Denials Through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.” The audit noted that “The FBI processed more than 51 million NICS transactions from 2008 to 2014,” and that “The FBI denied 556,496 of these transactions.”

However, the report went on to point out, “Between FY 2008 and FY 2015, an eight-year period, ATF formally referred 509 NICS denial cases that included 558 subjects to USAOs for possible prosecution. The USAOs accepted for consideration of prosecution 254 subjects (or less than 32 subjects per year).”

That was less than a 1-in-2,000 chance of being prosecuted as the result of a NICS denial.

Justice Department data obtained by *The Washington Post* suggests prosecutions for lying on Form 4473 were up during President Donald Trump’s administration for the years 2018-2020. However, the paper also noted, “the odds of being charged for lying on this form are virtually nonexistent.”

This is not to suggest that anywhere close to 100% of individuals denied by NICS should be prosecuted. For one, NICS is imprecise. Each year, thousands of individuals have their NICS denial overturned on appeal. In 2020, that number was nearly 7,000.

Further, in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), there is a strong Second Amendment argument that some of the existing federal prohibited persons categories are invalid or should be pared back. These may include non-violent felons, those who use controlled substances and those subject to certain civil orders.



Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) signing additional gun-control laws May 19, 2023.

Some of these questionable categories will overlap with judicious use of prosecutorial discretion. Aside from being dubious on Second Amendment grounds, nearly all Americans would agree that federally prosecuting an otherwise-law-abiding state medical marijuana card holder for gun possession or lying on Form 4473 is a waste of resources.

However, according to the 2020-2021 NICS Operational Report, in 2020, there were nearly 93,000 denials of individuals who met the federal definition for convicted felon. It's reasonable to deduce that among this sizable number were more than a few violent offenders who would make legitimate candidates for prosecution.

The longstanding indifference toward enforcing existing gun laws goes straight to the top.

Following the 2012 shooting at a school in Newtown, Conn., President Barack Obama tasked then-Vice President Joe Biden with leading his legislative effort against gun owners. In early 2013, then-NRA-ILA Director of Federal Affairs Jim Baker met with Biden to discuss the administration's gun-control efforts, and Baker pointed out the government's dismal record on prosecuting those who violated existing federal gun laws.

According to an account of the meeting published by *The Daily Caller*, the vice president responded, "regarding the lack of prosecutions on lying on Form 4473s, we simply don't have the time or manpower to prosecute everybody who lies on a form, that checks a wrong box, that answers a question inaccurately."

Biden's opposition to enforcing existing federal gun laws proved prescient—as far as his own family was concerned. The president's son, Hunter Biden, who has admitted to using crack cocaine, is facing allegations he lied on a Form 4473 when he purchased a firearm through a gun dealer in 2018, a period Hunter described in his autobiography as "nearly four years of active addiction."

Part of the problem with lack of enforcement is that we have some evidence from the rare instances where existing law is vigorously enforced, by targeting those who actually misuse firearms, can have a significant impact on violent crime.

In 1997, the Richmond, Va., U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) initiated a program called Project Exile. The effort aimed at "taking advantage of stiffer bond rules and sentencing guidelines in federal court" to federally prosecute every instance of certain types of gun crimes, including "felons with guns." A July 15, 1998, report on Project Exile from the Richmond USAO stated, "these efforts appear to be stemming the tide of violence, with homicides for the period November 1997 through May 1998, running more than 65% below the same period a year ago." The document went on to add, "Because of the demonstrated results in just one year of sustained effort, the U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to continuing Project Exile indefinitely."

THE LONGSTANDING INDIFFERENCE TOWARD ENFORCING EXISTING GUN LAWS GOES STRAIGHT TO THE TOP.

Before many prominent Democrats lost their minds on crime, this effort to leverage federal law to remove criminals with guns from vulnerable communities had bipartisan support. In a Jan. 14, 2013, piece for *The Washington Post*, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), a member of the Richmond City Council at the time Project Exile was implemented, acknowledged, "The most successful step we took was implementing Project Exile... The program helped drive down Richmond's homicide rate by nearly 60% within a few years and was celebrated by groups on both sides of the [gun] debate."

According to FBI data, national violent crime and homicide rates have increased since reaching a multi-decade low in 2014—with the homicide rate jumping nearly 50% from 2014 to 2020. While the elevated rates of recent years have not reached the peak violent crime of the early 1990s, there's much to suggest that robust enforcement of existing federal gun laws could help turn this unwelcome tide. That's because

some of the jurisdictions that drive the homicide rate have been captured by forces seeking to undo America's law enforcement and criminal justice systems, in part by neglecting to vigorously prosecute those who misuse firearms.

Consider Philadelphia, where George Soros-backed District Attorney Larry Krasner has presided since 2018. In 2013, the city saw 246 homicides. By 2021, that number had more than doubled to 562.

A September 2020 press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania "detailed ten murder cases in which the defendant was on the street because of overly lenient plea deals given out by the DA's Office." A March 2021 article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* explained, "Thousands more people are being arrested for carrying guns illegally. But their chances of being convicted in court have fallen by nearly a quarter."

In October 2022, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Select Committee on Restoring Law and Order issued a report explaining, "blinded by the goal of implementing progressive policies at any cost, DA Krasner has contributed to a catastrophic rise in violent crime at the expense of public safety." The committee pointed out the elevated dismissal rate for Pennsylvania's Uniform Firearms Act violations in Philadelphia.

To ensure enforcement of existing gun laws, in 2022, the Republican-controlled Pennsylvania House passed legislation to create a task force to prosecute felons in illegal possession of firearms. The sponsors explained, "The sole task of the [task force] is to review every arrest of a prior-convicted felon in possession of a gun (which is both a state and a federal crime) for prosecution." This year, the Democrat-controlled Pennsylvania House neglected this important legislation targeting criminals, but passed three gun-control bills that would further burden the law-abiding.

With such brazen indifference to enforcing current gun laws, while at the same time promoting ever-more gun control, gun-rights advocates would be justified in concluding that the anti-gun project is more about diminishing rights than promoting public safety. 🦋



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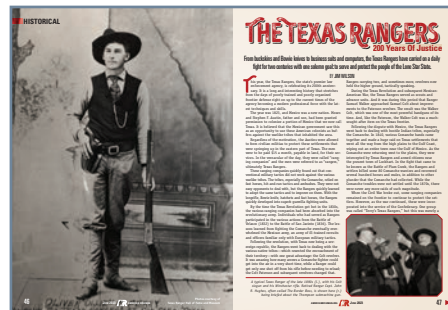
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22

READERS WRITE

Texas Rangers In Retrospective

Sheriff Jim Wilson's feature, "The Texas Rangers: 200 Years Of Justice," (June 2023, p. 46) was entertaining as well as fascinating. We who live in states other than Texas hear many fascinating tales about that great state. The sheriff's piece was well-written, and (from my recollection of American history) factually correct; it is history with which all defenders of the 2nd Amendment should be familiar. I hope to see histories of other legendary law-enforcement agencies in future editions.



—CONE S. UNDERWOOD, LT. COL. (RET.), U.S. ARMY

In Wilson's Texas Ranger article, he stated that during the Civil War "one group was called 'Terry's Texas Rangers,' but this was merely a group of volunteers and is simply indicative of the popularity of the Texas Ranger name." That "group of volunteers" was officially called the 8th Texas Cavalry, and, probably unbeknownst to the good sheriff, Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman called those volunteers in Terry's Texas Rangers "the most dangerous group of men ever set upon a battlefield in this war." That's quite an appellation for some mere volunteers. Enclosed is a picture of some of the lads in Co. C, 8th Texas Cavalry (Terry's).



Photo courtesy of NRA member

—KENT FOWLER

A High-Powered Resurgence

Thank you for the very nice article, "Low-Profile High Powers: EAA's Girsan MCP35 PI & Ops" (June 2023, p. 40) regarding those companies' latest offerings. It's interesting to me that it has taken so long for someone to finally recognize this variation. I've been carrying a Browning Hi Power for 30 years with a 4" barrel/slide marked "Argentine Detective"—it's the best carry piece ever made. Congrats, Girsan/EAA.



—L. J. ZIMMER

For more background on the licensed Hi-Power derivatives by Fabricaciones Militares, visit: americanrifleman.org/fmfap.

—THE EDS.

"Readers Write" affords members an opportunity to comment on material published in *American Rifleman*. Single-topic letters are preferred and may be edited for brevity. Send letters to: Readers Write, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or email us at publications@nrahq.org.

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A.



B.



C.



D.



E.

Exquisite walking sticks not shown actual size.



50 Years Of Bushmaster Firearms

Founded in 1973, Bushmaster Firearms is celebrating a half-century in business this year. Over the course of five decades, the company's product lineup has evolved dramatically, from the Arm Pistol of its early years (l.) to the cutting-edge Bravo Zulu rifle (far l.) introduced in 2023 as an updated AR-15 for the American market.

Initially located in Bangor, Maine, Bushmaster was the successor company of Gwinn Arms, founded by Mack Gwinn, Jr., a Vietnam War veteran. In its earliest years, the company focused on commercializing what was then a prototype for an Air Force aircrew survival arm, the IMP-221, which had initially been developed by Colt. The design combined aspects of the AR-15 with features more typically associated with the AK-47, like a long-stroke gas-piston operating system. In its civilian guise, this would be produced as the Bushmaster Arm Pistol, chambered in 5.56 NATO.

Production of the Arm Pistol continued into the late 1980s, but, by the early '90s, the company had transitioned to the production of the M17S, a bullpup rifle initially designed as a prototype for the Australian military. Chambered in 5.56 NATO, the M17S used an operating system similar to that of the ArmaLite AR-18 and was sold throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.

In 2006, Bushmaster was sold to Cerberus Capital Management, which eventually became part of Freedom Group, joining sister companies Remington Arms, Marlin Firearms, Advanced Armament Corp. and more. In 2020, following the dissolution of Remington Outdoor Co., formerly Freedom Group, Crotalus Holdings purchased the brand, which is now headquartered in Carson City, Nev. Recently, Bushmaster refreshed its product line and now offers an assortment of AR-15 rifles chambered for today's popular hunting and sporting cartridges. bushmaster.com





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FN America Expands In South Carolina



Hoppe's Celebrates 120 Years

Frank August Hoppe, in 1903, combined nine cleaning chemicals to deal with the corrosive effects of smokeless-powder cartridges on rifle bores, creating what is still one of the most popular gun cleaners on the market. Hoppe, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, a Spanish-American War veteran and a competition shooter, later patented his design as the "Nitro Power Solvent No. 9."

Today, Hoppe's is part of the Vista Outdoor group of companies, and the company's No. 9 cleaner is still available, along with an assortment of other cleaning necessities that keep firearms in pristine, working order.

"Hoppe's has been at the forefront of gun care for a long time, and everyone on the team is proud to continue this legacy that began 120 years ago," said Laurie Kokoruda, senior product manager. "We strive to honor our history with tried-and-true solutions like Hoppe's No. 9, while also pushing ahead to develop new products that make gun care faster, easier and more effective." hoppes.com



FN America is expanding in South Carolina with an all-new manufacturing facility, as well as an enlargement of its existing plant in the state. The new production facility will be located in Liberty, S.C., and upon completion, will provide 100,000 sq.-ft. of new manufacturing space, as well as 176 new jobs for the local community. Construction is planned in two phases, with building anticipated to start in 2024 and complete in 2025. Total cost is expected to be \$33 million.

Additionally, FN announced it would expand its current production facility in Columbia, S.C., adding 40,000 sq.-ft. of manufacturing capacity and office space, as well as creating a research and development space for new products. The cost of the expansion is estimated at \$18 million and will add 102 new positions. The new addition is expected to be completed in the first half of 2024.

"The record growth that our company has had these last several years has enabled us to invest in our South Carolina manufacturing footprint with our soon-to-be new facility in Liberty and now the expansion of our Columbia facility," said Mark Cherpes, president and CEO for FN America, LLC. "We were established in Richland County more than 40 years ago to manufacture small arms for the U.S. Army, and we are proud to expand our capacity to support that sector of our business." fnamerica.com

Pioneer! O Pioneer!

At an invitation-only reception prior to the start of the 2023 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Indianapolis, Ind., Wilson Combat founder and owner Bill Wilson (center) received the prestigious NRA Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award. Presented by NRA Publications Executive Director Doug Hamlin (r.) and Editorial Director Mark A. Keefe, IV (l.), the award recognizes "an individual whose exemplary achievement and cumulative body of work is responsible for the development and introduction of shooting equipment that has made a profound, positive and enduring impact on the way Americans shoot and hunt," and its recipients are among the most influential people in the firearm world.

"Back in 1977, the company started in the back 10x20-foot of my dad's jewelry store in Berryville, Arkansas," Wilson said after a standing ovation. "I'm humbled to receive this award, which speaks to the dedication and hard work of the more than 200 employees of the Wilson Combat family."



"From customized 1911s to innovative firearm designs like the EDC X9, new chamberings like .300 HAM'R, industry-leading accessories for multiple platforms, collaborations with other manufacturers like Beretta, SIG Sauer and Glock, and the growth of acquired brands like Chip McCormick Custom and Lehigh Defense, Bill Wilson's vision and leadership have had a profound

impact on American firearm owners," said Keefe while introducing Wilson. "His promotion of shooting competition through his stewardship of the IDPA and his steadfast commitment to protecting our inalienable rights protected by the Second Amendment are just some of the reasons why we take great pleasure in presenting the Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award to Bill Wilson."

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Beretta 3032 Tomcat Kale Slushy

Beretta introduced the tilt-barrel .32 ACP Tomcat to its pistol line back in 1996, with Covert models featuring extended 1/2x28 TPI-threaded muzzles—for compatibility with most 9 mm Luger muzzle accessories and suppressors—joining the family in 2020. Now for 2023, the company has added a trio of new versions of the Covert with durable Cerakote finishes. The Kale Slushy (shown) features a green slide and frame with green and black G10 stocks, while the Silver-Black Gorilla is Cerakoted black with matched black G10 stocks and the Ghost Buster is finished a stainless color with silver aluminum stocks. These Tennessee-made

semi-automatic pistols measure 5.25" long and 3.75" tall, allowing them to conceal easily and comfortably within a pocket holster, and their 17.5-oz. weight greatly dampens the already minimal recoil of the .32 ACP cartridge. Fireable in either single- or double-action modes, the Tomcat comes with a seven-round magazine, and the tip-up design of its barrel makes it easy to load an additional round directly into the chamber without needing to rack the slide. Price: \$649. Contact: Beretta USA; (800) 237-3882; beretta.com.



5.11 Warner Anorak Jacket

The Warner Anorak Jacket from 5.11 Tactical is an Anorak-style half-zip pullover jacket that protects against the elements due to its water-resistant, windbreaker-like, full-dull polyester exterior, elastic sleeve cuffs and drawcord-adjustable hood, while offering surprising warmth thanks to a fleece-lined interior. The jacket weighs only 19 ozs. and folds down to a 9"x7"x3" parcel, making it eminently packable, while two large kangaroo pockets (one is a zippered top-entry pocket concealed in front of and above the other) provide storage options. A zippered and snapped opening on each side of the waist provides venting, if needed, and also allows better access to a concealed firearm. The Warner Anorak Jacket is available in two colors: Black and Grenade (shown). Price: \$160. Contact: 5.11, Inc.; (866) 451-1726; 511tactical.com.

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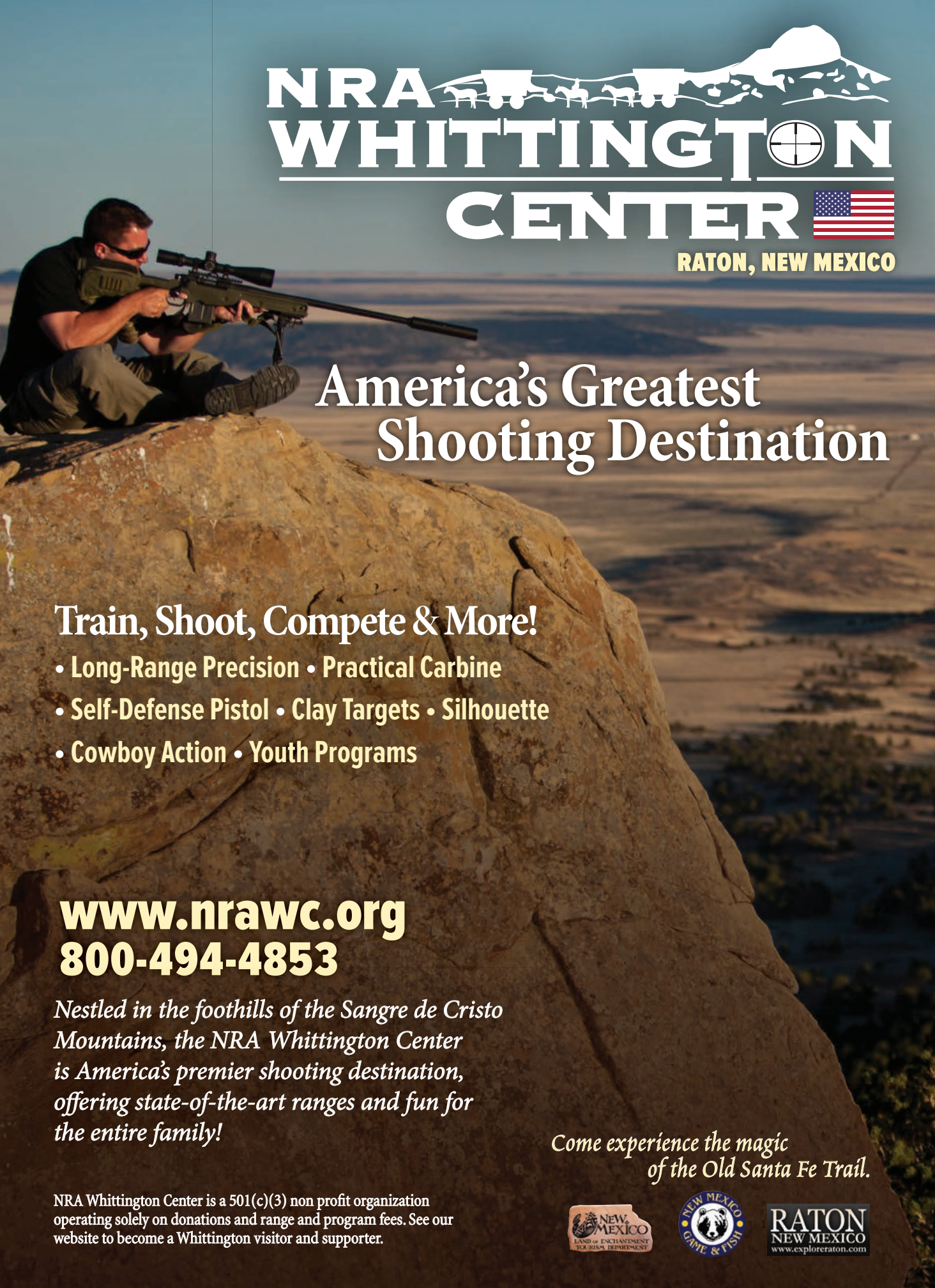
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Cuda RX-795

The Cuda RX-795 is one of the most technically advanced reflex-style red-dots on the market. Its IntelliDOT system self-regulates the intensity of its reticle, automatically measuring the ambient lighting 10 times per second to ensure the shooter's dot is always at its optimal brightness, a feature that can be manually overridden by the user if desired. The buttonless 6061 aluminum unit turns on when it senses movement and quickly turns itself off again after only about five seconds

of motionlessness, greatly extending the life of its included CR1632 battery, and an internal speaker beeps to provide a low-battery alert. The 1.34-oz. RX-795 is built on the common Docter footprint, and it also comes with a low-rise Picatinny mount, making it compatible with a large assortment of handguns and long arms; both 3-m.o.a. and 6-m.o.a. versions are available. Price: \$399. Contact: Cuda; (321) 422-3991; cudaoptics.com.



Mission First Tactical Hybrid Holster

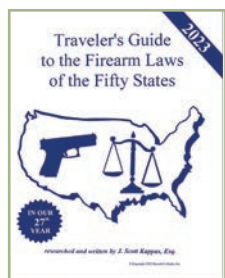
When it comes to holster selection, there are pros and cons to both leather and Kydex. Many companies have attempted to blend the best features of both into one perfect, hybrid solution, and Mission First Tactical has a novel take on the blended concept with its Hybrid Holster. The design features the rigidity and adjustable retention of a Kydex holster while providing a more comfortable carry experience, as well as the traditional style of leather. Thanks to the Kydex core, the holster requires no breaking-in as do traditional leather holsters, either. Cant is adjustable from 0 to 15 degrees, and the ambidextrous design of the holster allows it to be used for right- or left-hand carry. Price: \$69. Contact: Mission First Tactical; (267) 704-0001; missionfirsttactical.com.



Big Sky Precision PinUltimate Titanium

Many folks who live in salt-laden environments know all too well the corrosive nature of sodium. Big Sky Precision, a Montana-based machine shop, is offering a solution to rusted-out trailer-hitch pins with PinUltimate. Made from titanium, an ultra-durable, non-ferrous metal, the quick-release design makes securing a hitch quite simple, thanks to the company's exclusive ConnectTrick release system and its clip-less connector cap—depress the serrated, rectangular button

opposite the cap and ball detents retract, enabling removal. An internal O-ring helps prevent debris from entering the cap when installed. It is a lockable system to ultimately secure any load pulled by class III, IV and V hitches. PinUltimate Titanium comes with a full lifetime warranty. Stainless-steel versions are also available. Price: \$199. Contact: Big Sky Precision, Inc.; (888) 213-1492; bigskyprecision.com.



Traveler's Guide To The Firearm Laws Of The Fifty States

With Constitutional Carry gaining steam across the country and other localities introducing new restrictions, it's an important time to be informed about firearm laws across the nation. The updated *Traveler's Guide* from J. Scott Kappas is a crucial piece of information to keep handy whenever you're out on a road trip. The latest version, the 27th edition, features more than 100 updates to answer critical questions and keep armed citizens informed. Under each state heading there's a unique checklist that provides quick, at-a-glance guidance for vehicle carry, RV carry, duty to notify LEOs and more. Price: \$16. Contact: Gun Law Guide; (859) 491-6400; gunlawguide.com.

Tekna Wilderness Edge Survival Knife

Made in the United States and issued to air force pilots in Japan and Poland, the fixed-blade Tekna Wilderness Edge survival knife system contains a variety of items in its hollow handle and sheath designed to see its user through a life-threatening calamity. The 10.5"-long knife has a 6" full-tang blade with Ripsaw top edge, in solid or cut-out styles, made of 420HC stainless steel treated to a Rockwell hardness of 54-56. Inside the handle is an LED Splash-Lite submersible flashlight with a 20-year lithium battery. The quick-release sheath converts to a fishing pole with a reel containing 40 feet of 40-lb. braided line, and it stores a 17-piece fishing tackle kit.

Other contents include: a nail for punching holes in leather and canvas for lacing; two safety pins; a thigh/gear strap; a signal mirror; a small-animal snare; a spear/arrowhead; a liquid-filled compass with lanyard; a magnesium fire starter stick; a ceramic knife-sharpener rod; a 10-page survival guide fan card; and a drilling thumbscrew for wood and light metals. Price: \$249. Contact: Tektite Industries, Inc.; (609) 656-0600; tek-tite.com.





Geyser Systems Portable Shower With Heater

Remote hunting locations with limited access to water can make maintaining personal hygiene difficult, creating an unpleasant camp experience and putting game on high alert due to unfamiliar human scents. Geyser Systems offers a compact solution in its portable shower unit with heater—a self-contained, 12-volt-DC-powered unit that measures 9.5"x6.25"x7" and weighs 8 lbs. Simply plug the 16-foot power cord into a running vehicle, set the heater to bring the 0.8-gallon reservoir of water to temperature, turn on the control valve and let the built-in pump fill the unit's 5-foot detachable hose and saturate the interchangeable sponge scrub at its end. The user can then bathe the skin and hair for up to 15 minutes. Anti-scalding and water-level sensors ensure safety, and an LED display indicates pump temperature and water level. Additional color-coded scrubs are available at minimal cost. Price: \$350. Contact: Geyser Systems; (831) 264-0019; geysersystems.com.

Winchester Big Bore Ammunition

New for 2023 from Winchester Ammunition is the Big Bore line designed for knock-down power for hunting as well as personal defense. Winchester loads its Big Bore line with semi-jacketed hollow-point bullets in brass cases. The Big Bore line is a prime candidate for revolvers and carbines, as well as today's semi-automatics, with available chamberings in .357 Mag. (157 grains), 10 mm Auto (200 grains), .44 Mag. (240 grains) and .45 Colt (250 grains). Price: \$34 to \$58. Contact: Winchester Ammunition; winchester.com.



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American Rifleman archives [August 1948]

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Syracuse Arms Co.

Q I came by a double-barrel 12-ga. shotgun made by Syracuse Arms Co.: Serial No. 11300. It is marked "Improved Damascus." What can you tell me about the company and gun?

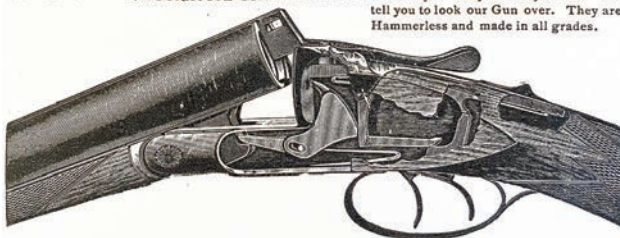
A Your Syracuse Arms Co. shotgun was made in Syracuse, N.Y., the company being in business from 1893 until 1908. Its production actually ended in 1906, and it was bought by the Ithaca Gun Co. in 1908. The guns were made based on designs by Frank Hollenbeck, and his name appears on Syracuse Arms Co. guns made before Serial No. 10000.

Frank Hollenbeck was born in upstate New York in 1851; he was a machinist, inventor and master gunmaker. He was associated with Syracuse Arms, Ansley H. Fox, Baltimore Arms and Dan Lefever. He also made locks and bicycle seats. Ultimately, he formed the Hollenbeck Gun Co. to manufacture his patented three-barrel shotguns—which re-organized in 1905 as the Three Barrel Gun Co. Hollenbeck died in 1933.

"Questions & Answers" is compiled by staff, Field and Contributing Editors from the inquiries about guns, ammunition and their use received by *American Rifleman*. Direct answers to technical and historical questions are provided only to NRA members. Submit letters to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or to: americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Include your membership number or current copy of an NRA magazine mailing label or membership card and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope. Please limit each letter to one specific question. Technical or historical questions cannot be answered by telephone, and even approximate values on guns or other equipment cannot be provided. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for replies.

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"Improved Damascus" refers to one of several grades of Damascus or twist-steel barrels. Because Damascus barrels are made of twisted steel and iron, corrosion can invade the softer iron, causing undetectable voids and potentially leading to barrel failure. Because of its age and construction, this shotgun should not be fired under any circumstances unless it is certified safe to fire by a qualified gunsmith familiar with older firearms.

—JOHN M. TAYLOR, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

American Rifleman archives

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FAVORITE FIREARMS

A Treasured Colt DAA

James Payton, a special brother in the Lord, called me on a Sunday afternoon asking me to bring a box of .44 WCF cartridges to shoot an old Colt he had bought at the gun show. James was a man of few but meaningful words. I took the wife and kids over to his house to shoot this six-shooter. It was a Model 1878 Double Action Army serial-numbered to 1891.

James fired the gun first, two rounds, then asked me if I wanted to shoot it. Of course I did. I fired the remaining four rounds. He asked me what I thought. I could see it was in rough shape and was missing parts with some hand-made replacements. I told him, "It sure is old." He handed

me the gun and told me, "It's yours. I bought it for you." I had never received such a gift.

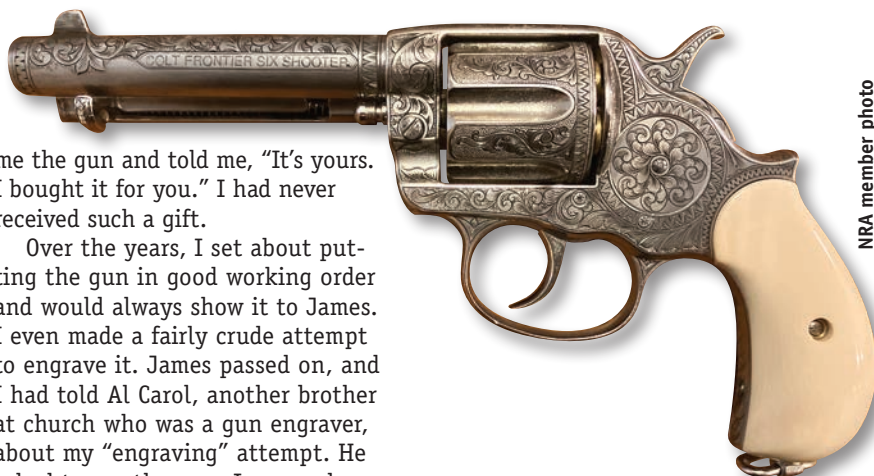
Over the years, I set about putting the gun in good working order and would always show it to James. I even made a fairly crude attempt to engrave it. James passed on, and I had told Al Carol, another brother at church who was a gun engraver, about my "engraving" attempt. He asked to see the gun. I was embarrassed, but when he asked the second time, I let him see it. He asked to keep it for a while.

A month later, he gave the gun back—after having spent 140 hours of his life engraving it as his gift to me.

God used two church brothers,

each giving me "the best gift they could give." I had to have special stocks made for this gun, and Mr. Henry Lance of Texas Grips was able to complete it for me.

—HOWARD VAN WINKLE



NRA member photo

Nearly every shooter has a favorite firearm. If you would like to share the experience of owning yours with other *American Rifleman* readers, or on americanrifleman.org, send a sharp color photograph of the gun, accompanied by its story in fewer than 400 words, with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Favorite Firearms, *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, or email it to americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.

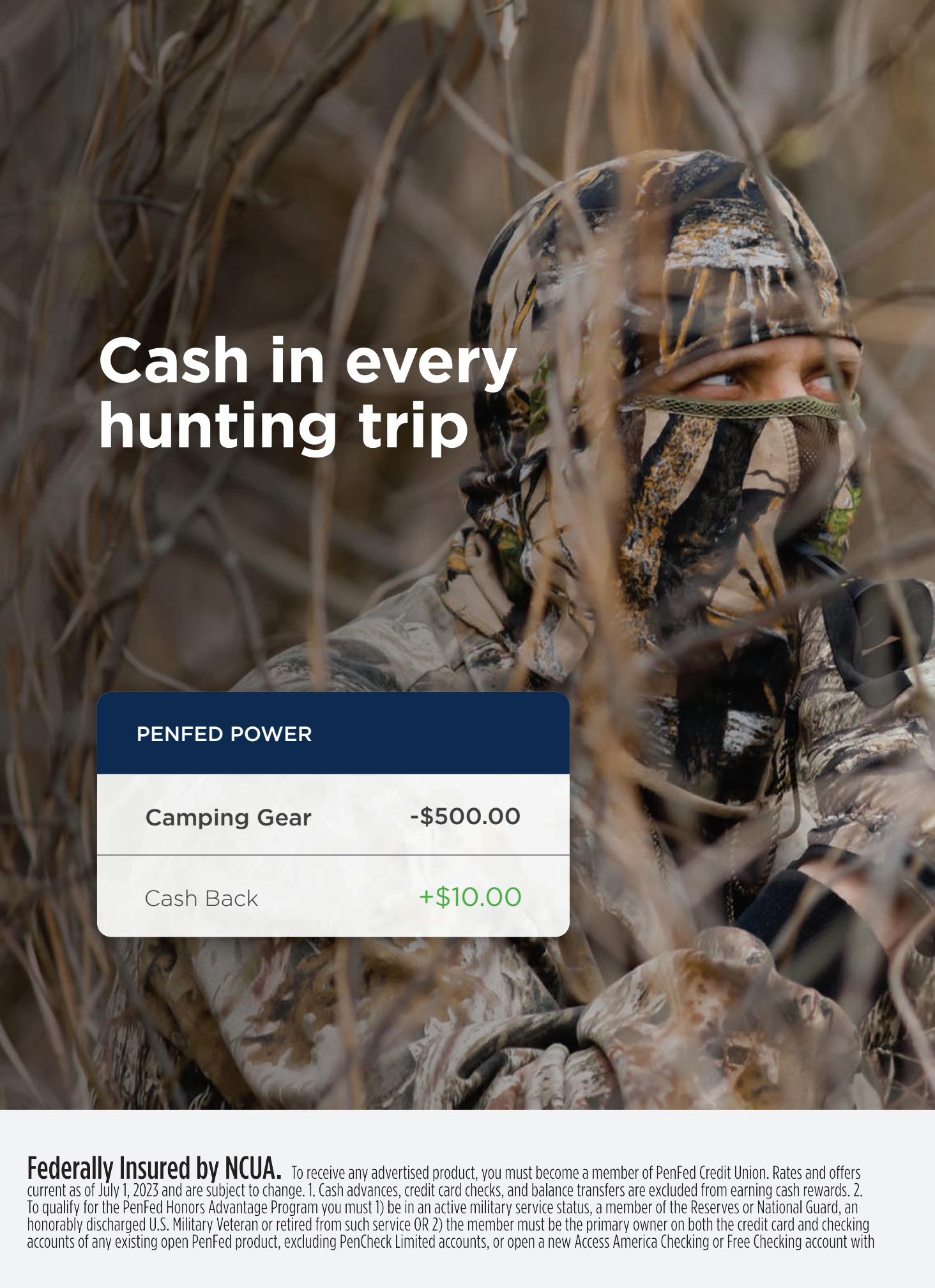
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First known for its small-caliber revolvers and lever-action rifles chambered for revolver cartridges, Rossi has stepped up with a line of .357 Mag. double-action wheelguns—and new long guns to boot.

BY JEREMIAH KNUPP, Field Editor



On The Rise

The .357 Magnum is one of the most versatile handgun cartridges ever made. It is superbly accurate, has the ballistics to take up to medium-size game and has a proven track record of ending self-defense situations in a timely manner. Its chambers will also accommodate the use of low-cost, low-recoil .38 Special cartridges for a relaxed afternoon of target practice. Further, the cartridge's versatility is an ideal match for a modern medium-frame revolver. A size, weight and balance that is perfect for all-day carry, a medium-frame revolver with contemporary metallurgy will handle a steady diet of the hottest magnum loads.

It's into this well-established understanding that the Rossi name is making its return to the handgun market—in this case, with three formats that cover the spectrum of .357 Mag. revolver niches: hunting/target shooting, self-defense and “all of the above.” In addition, the Rossi brand now includes a diverse selection of long guns, making for a growing family of models that will doubtless create ripples even in today's dynamic market.

Rossi History

The Brazilian firm of Amadeo Rossi began manufacturing firearms in 1889. Importation into the United States began in the 1960s with the Rossi Princess .22 Long Rifle revolver, a diminutive handgun that took its inspiration from the early 20th century Smith & Wesson Ladysmith. A decade later, two products closely associated with the

Rossi brand were introduced. The Puma lever-action, pistol-caliber rifle was a clone of the classic staple of big-screen Westerns, the Winchester Model 1892. Along with the rabbit-ear-hammered Rossi Overland side-by-side shotgun, the pair became mainstays of the early days of cowboy action shooting. It was also in the '70s that Rossi introduced the Model 62 .22 pump-action rifle. Another close copy of a classic Winchester, it brought the joy of the slide-action rimfire gallery gun to a new generation.



ROSSI



RM66



RM64



RP63

While overshadowed by the company's long guns, handguns were a mainstay of the Rossi brand. The ubiquitous Rossi revolver in those early decades was a five-shot, small-frame handgun that was chambered in .22 LR, .32 S&W or .38 Spl. Throughout the '80s and '90s, the company's handgun lineup expanded to include five- and six-shot models in blued and stainless finishes and a variety of barrel lengths, with .22 WMR, .357 Mag. and .44 Spl. chamberings eventually joining in.

Rossi products were first imported into the United States by Benet Arms, followed by Firearms Intl., the Garcia Corp. and, finally, Interarms. In 1997, Rossi became part of the Braztech empire, which includes fellow Brazilian manufacturer Taurus. By 2010, Taurus had taken over the manufacturing of Rossi-branded products. Braztech discontinued its Rossi revolver line in 2018 to focus on Rossi's growing assortment of long guns (see sidebar, p. 43).

The New Rossi Revolvers

This spring, Rossi announced that it would be returning to the handgun market by offering three new revolver models. The introduction was made with a slick "Yellowstone"-esque "Magnum Country" marketing campaign featuring cowboy hats, pickup trucks and the rugged Western skyline. All three new revolvers are six-shot, medium-frame, double-action designs with swing-out cylinders operated by a left-side, push-forward cylinder release. They are chambered in .357 Mag.

and have full underlug barrels. Their firing pin is hammer-mounted and replaceable, but don't let this fool you into thinking the Rossi revolvers have the same safety concerns associated with traditional-style single-action revolvers.

The revolvers' action utilizes a hammer-block safety that

While all three Rossi models share lockwork, the RM66 (top) and RM64 have "square-butt" frames while the RP63 (bottom) features a "round-butt."



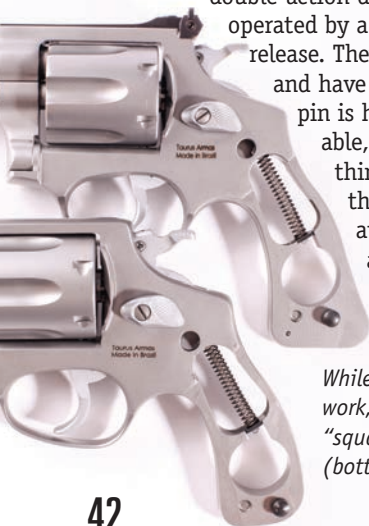
The Rossi design features a hammer-mounted firing pin along with a transfer bar (above) that ensures the gun is safe until the trigger is depressed. Removing the RP63's sideplate reveals the action's coil mainspring (r.).



moves out of the way only when the trigger is depressed to allow the firing pin to contact the primer of a cartridge. None of the models has the integral manually locking safety system seen on some previous-generation Rossi revolvers. The action is powered by a coil mainspring, and lock-up occurs both at the rear of the fluted cylinder and where the yoke latches into the frame. All models have a front sight that is pinned in place and thus replaceable. Stocks are of two-piece, finger-grooved, wrap-around rubber that enclose the entire grip frame. The revolvers are being offered with all-stainless construction with a satin-polished finish or in carbon steel with a matte-black, gas-nitride finish.

Two models, the RM66 and RM64, use the same "square-butt" frame and have an adjustable rear sight, with 6" and 4" barrels respectively. The RP63 uses a more compact, "round-butt" frame with a fixed rear sight that is a groove in the frame's topstrap, paired with a 3" barrel. The three platforms cover the aforementioned niches in the revolver world quite nicely.

The RM66 is a long-barreled hunting and target model. Its adjustable sights mean you can fine-tune your point of impact over the wide range of velocities and bullet weights available in .38 Spl. and .357 Mag. ammunition, and its



barrel length helps wring the ballistic potential out of the magnum cartridge. Despite its overall size, the RM66 doesn't have the bulk of a larger-frame revolver and is easy to carry all day in a belt, chest or shoulder holster. It's about 10 ozs. lighter than your typical large-frame .357 with the same length barrel, meaning you could add a handgun scope to the RM66 and still have a reasonably light overall package.

The RP63 is a compact model for concealed carry and home defense. Its "bobtailed" grip frame offers a solid, full-handed gripping area, while minimizing the revolver's "print" when carried concealed beneath clothing. Its fixed sighting system rounds out the RP63's low-profile, snag-free outline. Its overall length of 7.88" and height of 4.93" approximates the size of a compact semi-automatic handgun, such as the Glock 19. With a width at the cylinder that measures 1.46", it is slightly wider than a double-stack-magazine pistol, but the barrel and grip are narrower, making the revolver feel smaller when tucked inside the waistband.

With six rounds of 125-grain defense ammunition in the cylinder, it weighs a little more than an ounce less than the Glock 19 I measured it against when that model has a



Sights are geared toward each model's intended use. For the RM66 (L.), that means an adjustable rear for target shooting or hunting, while the carry-oriented RP63 (r.) suffices with a groove in the topstrap.

full 15-round magazine on board. To make that comparison against the de facto standard for concealed-carry revolvers, the Smith & Wesson 642, the RP63 is about 1.5" longer, 0.75" taller, 0.16" wider and it weighs 12 ozs. more empty than the alloy-frame pocket revolver. The trade off? The RP63 has a magnum payload and an extra round of capacity.

Rossi is offering a holster made by UM Tactical as an accessory, and I carried the RP63 in this rig for the duration of my testing. Of the company's Qualifier design, the holster has adapter clips that allow it to be worn either inside or outside the waistband with adjustable cant and retention, and it can also be switched from right- to left-hand carry. Made of Boltaron, a thermoplastic that UM Tactical claims handles extreme temperatures and impacts better than Kydex, the

Rossi's Diverse Lineup

While the Rossi name is probably most associated with R92 pistol-caliber lever-actions and the .410/.45 Colt revolving Circuit Judge, the company's line has grown over the past decade to include a variety of shotguns and rimfire rifles. And while Rossi's new revolvers are causing a stir, they really represent a larger firearm catalog that has quietly come full circle.

Though its classic Model 62 pump-action has been discontinued for nearly two decades now, Rossi is currently offering five models of rimfire rifles in bolt-action, lever-action, pump-action and semi-automatic form. The R92 lever gun is scaled down into the Rio Bravo rimfire, with an aluminum alloy frame and 18" steel barrel, available with either wood or polymer stocks in a variety of finishes, with an MSRP between \$360 and \$470.

A new "Gallery" model pump-action rifle has more contemporary lines adapted from the Rio Bravo, but still uses an external-hammer design and an under-barrel tubular magazine. It is available in a classic style with wood stock and iron sights or with modern polymer furniture and fiber-optic sights (MSRP \$350-\$400). Both the Rio Bravo and Gallery models have a crossbolt safety.



Rossi's bolt-action, magazine-fed rimfires include the RB17 and RB22M, full-size rifles chambered in .17 HMR and .22 WMR, respectively, with 21" free-floated barrels and bases for scope mounting (MSRP \$230). The RB22 series is chambered in .22 Long Rifle and is available in both full-size (18" barrel) and compact, youth-size (16" barrel with its muzzle threaded and a stock with a shortened length of pull) models with polymer stocks, adjustable fiber-optic sights and an MSRP under \$190.

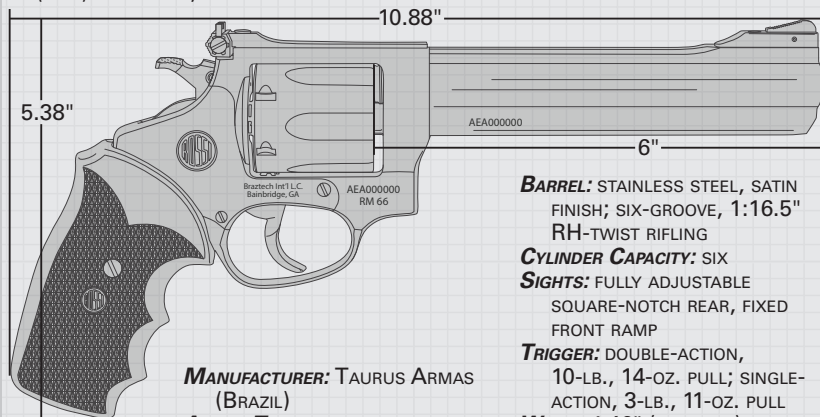
Rounding out its rimfire lineup, Rossi offers magazine-fed, semi-automatic rifles in both .22 LR (RS22) and .22 WMR (RS22M). Like the RB22, the RS22 has an 18" free-floated barrel, fiber-optic sights and a polymer stock available in a variety of colors for an MSRP of \$160. The RS22M

likewise follows the specs of Rossi's magnum rimfire bolt-actions, with a 21" barrel and a factory-installed scope base (MSRP \$350).

While the classic Rossi double-barreled shotguns are no longer manufactured, the company is still in the business of producing scatterguns. The Tuffy line of .410-bore shotguns features 18" barrels, fixed modified chokes and polymer thumbhole rear stocks in the old "snake charmer" style, with an MSRP of \$190. The Tuffy shotgun is also available in a 26"-barreled turkey-hunting model that is offered in both .410-bore (MSRP \$250) and 20-ga. (MSRP \$280) versions with a screw-in, extra full choke tube. The company's solo 12-ga. model is the ST-12, an 18"-barreled home-defense pump shotgun with polymer furniture and a bead front sight (MSRP \$330).

ROSSI RM66

IMPORTER: BRAZTECH, INTL. LC (DEPT. AR), 100 TAURUS WAY, BAINBRIDGE, GA 39817;
(229) 515-8707; ROSSIUSA.COM



MANUFACTURER: TAURUS ARMAS (BRAZIL)

ACTION TYPE: DOUBLE-ACTION, CENTERFIRE REVOLVER

CHAMBERING: .357 MAG.

FRAME: STAINLESS STEEL; SATIN FINISH

BARREL: STAINLESS STEEL, SATIN FINISH; SIX-GROOVE, 1:16.5" RH-TWIST RIFLING

CYLINDER CAPACITY: SIX

SIGHTS: FULLY ADJUSTABLE SQUARE-NOTCH REAR, FIXED FRONT RAMP

TRIGGER: DOUBLE-ACTION, 10-LB., 14-OZ. PULL; SINGLE-ACTION, 3-LB., 11-OZ. PULL

WIDTH: 1.46" (CYLINDER)

WEIGHT: 34.4 OZS.

ACCESSORIES:

OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK

MSRP: \$620

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 5' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
.357 MAGNUM					
REMINGTON PWG 158-GRAIN SWC	1,375 Avg. 16 Sd	663	2.20	3.05	2.66
SIG SAUER EP 125-GRAIN JHP	1,431 Avg. 16 Sd	568	2.58	3.07	2.84
.38 SPECIAL					
FEDERAL AE 130-GRAIN FMJ	872 Avg. 31 Sd	219	1.72	2.85	2.36
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.62
NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS PROCHRONO DIGITAL CHRONOGRAPH AT 5 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FOR A CALDWELL MATRIX REST. TEMPERATURE: 61° F. HUMIDITY: 44%. ABBREVIATIONS: AE (AMERICAN EAGLE), EP (ELITE PERFORMANCE), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), PWG (PERFORMANCE WHEELGUN), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SWC (SEMI WAD CUTTER).					

holster is molded specifically to the RP63's profile with a matching minimalist style. Using it in IWB configuration, it keeps the revolver tucked securely, yet is cut to allow for a full firing grip when drawing.

The RM64 splits the difference between the two other models, with the flexibility of adjustable sights combined with a barrel length for comfortable belt carry. This combination is the classic magnum service revolver that dominated the duty belts of law-enforcement officers for decades. The RM64 is a compromise that can handle most of the duties of both its siblings, from close-range, open-sight hunting to concealed carry. It was my go-to of the three for outdoors all-day "home and range" carry in a belt-mounted hip holster and makes an ideal companion to one of Rossi's .357 Mag.-chambered R92 rifles. The RM64 I tested had the matte-black gas-nitride finish, which contributed to its no-nonsense, all-work-and-no-play appearance.

Though "new" models, the current Rossi revolver lineup is an update of the previously imported Rossi R972/971 (adjustable sights) and R462/461 (fixed sights) guns, meaning that there are already some after-market accessories available for them. They also have compatibility with certain accessories designed for Smith & Wesson and Taurus medium-size revolvers. The six chambers of the cylinder of all three Rossi revolvers aligned perfectly with my HKS 10 speed-loader, and the revolvers slipped right into my collection of vintage and modern K-frame-size holsters. But this doesn't mean you'll have to rely on eBay to acquire accessories for your Rossi revolver; the company is partnering with other manufacturers to ensure its new handgun line has new accessories available. Along with UM Tactical, Rossi is working with other holster makers, such as Galco and DeSantis, for models made specifically to accommodate the revolvers' configurations. Rossi has also partnered with LOK Grips to offer stock options machined from G10 material.

Why would Braztech, which already has a prolific line of revolvers, need to re-introduce Rossi-branded handguns? The new Rossi models represent a premium revolver in the company's line that is positioned between the standard Taurus revolver and that brand's Executive Grade offerings. Their price reflects this: The RM66 has an MSRP that is \$50 more than the similarly spec'd Taurus 66, but \$70 less than the Taurus 856 Executive Grade.

Rossi has always banked on nostalgia to market its firearms, and the new revolvers are no exception. Thumbing the hammer back reveals the hammer-mounted firing pin that is unique among most contemporary double-action revolvers. Without wading into the debate over the perceived advantages and disadvantages of frame-mounted versus hammer-mounted firing pins on revolvers, it is sufficient to say that going this route gives the Rossi guns a feature and appearance that is appealing to many. This unique aesthetic also extends to the rest of the revolvers—not a "clone" of something else on the market, their overall profile distinctively recalls the classic Rossi handguns of the '80s and '90s.

On The Range

For my formal accuracy and velocity testing, I employed the RM66 with a variety of .357 Mag. and .38 Spl. loads. In a world of red-dots, reticles, tritium and fiber-optics, it's easy to forget the value of the classic and simple handgun sighting system, as featured on the RM66. The front black



The compact RP63 works with speedloaders compatible with popular S&W K-frame models—in this case, an HKS 10-A.

ramp is serrated to reduce glare, as is the rest of the sighting plane along the top of the barrel and the base of the rear sight. The fully adjustable rear is a simple square-notch blade with a white outline. Windage and elevation are screw-adjustable with tactile clicks. The aligned sight picture nestled in perfectly at the six o'clock position on the 5" bullseye of an official NRA 25-yard slow-fire pistol target. Firing from a rest at 25 yards, almost all of the five-shot groups stayed within the 2" to 3" range, with an overall average of just greater than 2.5".

The RM66's single-action trigger pull contributed to this accuracy. Rossi calls the trigger on its revolvers "match grade." The trigger on the RM66 broke crisply at just less than 4 lbs., with no perceived take-up or grit in single-action mode. The RM64 and RP63 triggers were similar, but about a pound heavier. The wide and checkered spur makes it easy to thumb the hammer into the cocked position.

Double-action pulls on all three guns measured just less than 11 lbs. The Rossis' 0.395"-wide, smooth-faced trigger made it easy to manage the double-action pull. I utilized the double-action mode almost exclusively when shooting the intended-for-self-defense RP63. Its trigger pull was smooth throughout its arc, making it easy to place all six rounds in the vital zone at a rapid pace from close ranges.



The Rossi design includes a cylinder that locks at the front and rear. Functioning of the test guns was smooth with proper operation of the cylinder latch and ejector rod.

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The RM66 features a front sight base with pinned, serrated blade that is affixed to the barrel's integrated top rib with a screw (r.). Its rear sight is fully adjustable for windage and elevation (far r.).



At 7-to-15-yard ranges, the RP63 shot to the point of aim of its fixed sights. For serious defensive use, it would be recommended to replace the front sight with something with more visibility. While the black front sight contrasted nicely with the satin stainless of the rear sight gutter of the test revolver, the minimal sights were hard to pick up on a black background or in low light. As the Rossi uses the same front sight pattern as contemporary Taurus revolvers, aftermarket options from XS Sights and Ameriglo are available.

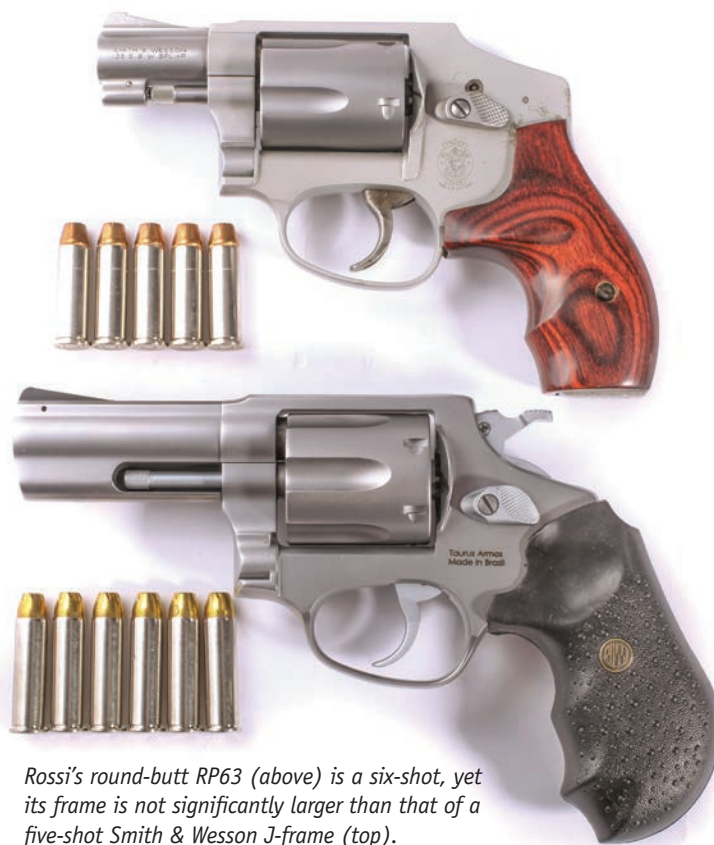
The 3" barrel of the RP63 delivered respectable velocities from the .357 Mag. cartridge, yielding about 200 f.p.s. less with 125-grain loads than the 4" barrel length that most .357 Mag.'s advertised velocities are clocked at, but nearly 300 f.p.s. more than is delivered from an ultra-compact 2" barrel.

And the RM64? Because of its competency, there is very little additional to say about it. In handling both longer-range precision shooting and up-close-and-dirty work just as well as the two aforementioned revolvers, you can take everything described above and apply it to the RM64.

When firing magnum loads in the Rossi revolvers, the recoil is noticeably more than in heavier and larger handguns chambered in the same cartridge, yet still easily managed. Along with the weight of the full underlug barrel, the wraparound rubber stocks helped dampen the recoil, with the square profile and checkered handles on the RM66 and RM64 doing the best job of this. The more minimal and pebble-grained stocks on the RP63 are the compromise between minimized profile and comfort that you expect from a concealed-carry revolver. With its 3" barrel and all-steel construction, recoil was reasonable with even the stoutest magnum loads, especially when compared to lightweight, alloy-frame, five-shot magnum revolvers. Those who have problems handling recoil would find the RP63 to be soft-shooting with .38 Spl. +P defensive loads.

All three revolvers functioned perfectly in my testing. Deliberate attempts to short-stroke the double-action triggers were unsuccessful in inducing a bind in the mechanism. The cylinder releases worked smoothly and cylinders latched in place positively. Positive action on the ejector rod removed empty cases from the cylinder without issue, even after the revolvers had gotten very dirty.

With the introduction of the RM66, RM64 and RP63, Rossi is returning to its double-action-revolver roots with three handguns that deliver the value that the brand is known for. In the kingdom of the polymer handgun, an all-steel firearm that necessitates the care and fitting of a revolver is just going to be more expensive, but expect the store price for all three Rossi wheelguns to stay in the \$400 to \$500 range. It's what Rossi calls "premium quality without a premium price." The result is three "affordable quality" options for the classic and versatile pairing of a medium-frame, double-action revolver and the .357 Mag. cartridge. And, in this case, each is unmistakably a Rossi. 



Rossi's round-butt RP63 (above) is a six-shot, yet its frame is not significantly larger than that of a five-shot Smith & Wesson J-frame (top).



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Designed to accommodate state hunting regulations requiring straight-wall cartridges, Big Green's latest deerslayer proves that hitting hard doesn't have to hurt.

BY FRANK MELLONI

Standing by Henry Repeating Arms' Steel Lever Action Remington 360 Buckhammer Side Gate rifle is a handful of the new cartridge's 180-grain Core-Lokt soft-point

Remington's New Heavy Hitter 360 BUCKHAMMER



If necessity is said to be the mother of all invention, then it's also fair to say that legislation breeds innovation. As I hail from a firearm-restrictive state, New York, I have lived through the advent of fixed-magazine AR-15s, 49.6-oz. handguns and rifle grips that fit every description other than "pistol." To that end, when states started to announce that they were going to ease hunting restrictions to allow the use of reduced-range cartridges, I quickly saw the writing on the wall—a straight wall in this instance.

Seemingly overnight, the backdrop was filled with cartridges explicitly built for this niche, which is to be expected. Although I don't think anybody expected the Remington brand to be back and in a position to introduce such new products so quickly, that is precisely what we have here in the 360 Buckhammer. It is Remington's entry in the competition to be the most powerful .35-cal. straight-walled cartridge in the woods, and it also happens to be lever-action friendly.

While the distinction between straight and tapered cartridges previously only meant something to gun builders and handloaders, it has more recently been used as a simple way to distinguish long-range ammunition from short-range ammunition. The goal of the New York legislature was to allow hunters to use firearms that were more accurate and softer-recoiling than shotguns for medium- and large-game hunting, yet still protect nearby homeowners from the (albeit rare) danger of a stray bullet or ricochet.

The idea quickly grabbed hold, as many hunters already owned firearms that fit the descriptions set forth by state law. Once afield, however, they realized that many of these cartridges had limitations that precluded their use for deer hunting. Issues stemming from effective range to bullet performance started to rear their ugly heads, turning many hunters back to their faithful slug guns. Spotting this regression, Winchester introduced the 350 Legend cartridge, which caught on like wildfire. Many deer hunters favor larger-than-.30-cal. bullets, with a certain fondness for the .35-cal. in particular—if you don't believe me, bring up .35 Remington to any serious woodland hunter and watch his or her face light up.

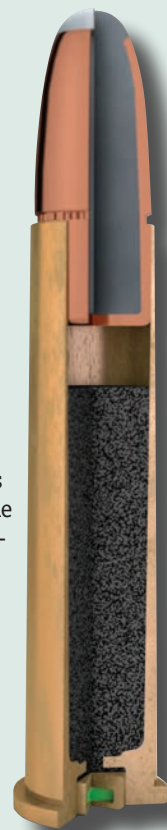
Winchester certainly had a hit on paper, but it, too, suffers from a few maladies. First, it was designed on a rimless case, taking it out of the running for a conventional lever-gun chambering. Second, its case is shorter than it needs to be. At 1.710", it is almost a tenth of an inch shy of the 1.800" case

length that most, if not all, states mandating straight-wall cartridges for certain hunting areas or seasons have declared as their maximum allowance. This might not sound like much of a limitation, but, in practice, that is nearly enough room to turn .38 Special into .357 Magnum. For reference, this number was supposedly the longest practical handgun cartridge length recorded by SAAMI when these laws grabbed foot. Many states felt it would be easier written and understood as "pistol-caliber rifles are now okay" instead of making hunters calculate muzzle energy.

Big Green Pushes It

Remington Ammunition has a long history of making excellent deer-harvesting products. But, for the last few years, it simply didn't have the means. Ravaged by bankruptcy and lackluster management, any projects on the drawing board sat in stagnation, including a project to chamber a Marlin 336 in .357 Rem. Max., showing that the company was already thinking in the .35-cal. straight-wall direction. Alas, the famed manufacturer succumbed to financial ruin and would eventually be broken up, with the ammunition portion acquired by Vista Outdoor to join brands such as Federal Premium, Speer and CCI. Needless to say, Remington's new holding entity helped the brand realize its potential to produce better products, so, with that, the 360 Buckhammer project returned to the forefront.

Two 360 Buckhammer loads are being offered by Remington at launch: 180- and 200-grain Core-Lokt soft points.



360 BUCKHAMMER

Now, I don't want to automatically paint it in the light of "a better 350 Legend," although the numbers do indeed indicate that it has more muzzle energy and less drop while only adding a marginal amount of recoil. While the "better mousetrap" approach to marketing is classically a sound method, Remington prefers the idea of putting it in front of .30-30 Win. owners as a familiar cartridge in a friendly platform that they can legally use during deer season. When compared to lever-actions chambered for the like, those that cross over get to retain the same manual of arms and similar trajectories as granddad's favorite woodland companion.

From Dream To Reality

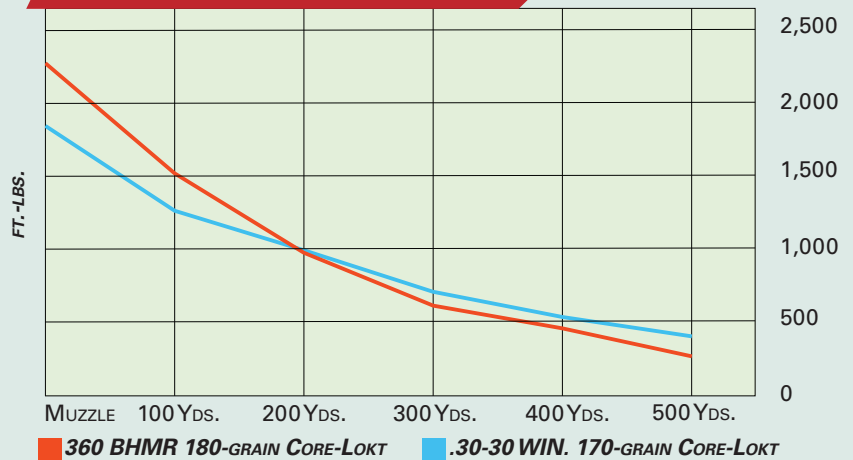
As previously mentioned, the story of the 360 Buckhammer started somewhere around 2016 with Remington's senior research engineer, Ricky Buckmaster (yes, that is his real name). The specifics were a response to the request of the company's director of ammunition product management, Nick Sachse. Sachse envisioned a straight-wall cartridge that had more power than .30-30 Win., comparable ballistics and recoil that was as tolerable or even less than that of the classic when loaded with the same weight bullet. Knowing that the .357 Rem. Max. didn't have the capacity to get there, could the solution be as simple as not necking down a .30-30 case? It turns out that, yes, yes it could.

Using this readily available parent case, .30-30 Win. brass is pulled off the line at the early stages of its creation, and instead of receiving the bottleneck treatment, it is tapered to accept a 0.358"-diameter bullet and trimmed to 1.800" with a tolerance of 0.02". This allows Remington to load the cartridge with the same time-tested bullets that are featured in its other woods-worthy .35-cal. ammunition and keeps it legal in the states that dictate a maximum case length. Call me sentimental, but a certain feeling is associated with holding a cartridge built from elements of several iconic deer classics rolled into one. It's unique, almost like finding a well-preserved surplus rifle and getting it for a steal.

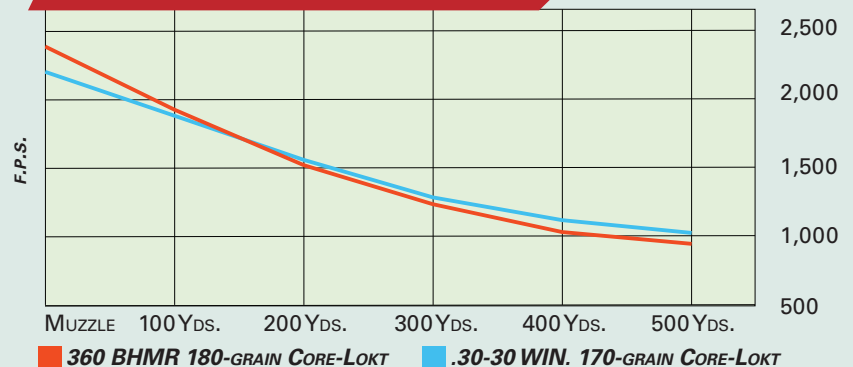
Quick-Performing Projectiles

One of my favorite features of this cartridge is that Remington didn't try to re-invent the wheel during its creation. Needless to say, there won't be any EtronX loadings anytime in the near future. No, instead, Team Green utilized the bullets its hunters desired most, which are rolled off of its presses in Lonoke, Ark. At the time of this writing,

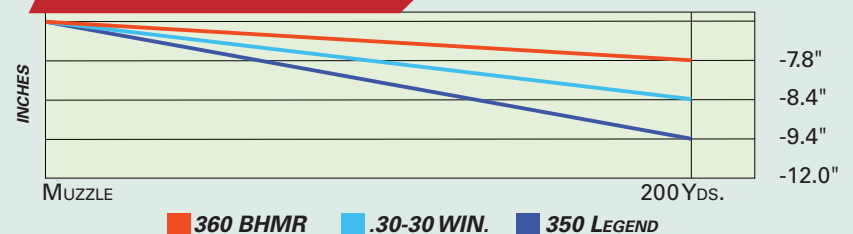
ENERGY: 360 BHRM VS. .30-30 WIN.



VELOCITY: 360 BHRM VS. .30-30 WIN.



BULLET DROP AT 200 Yds.



inaugural loads will consist of 180- and 200-grain soft points from the prestigious Core-Lokt line. Although both have sluggish G1 ballistic coefficients (0.178 and 0.181, respectively), their larger diameter and generous exposed lead tip work in conjunction to produce hydrostatic shock at lower velocities than narrower, even heavier, designs.

It also pays to mention that the cartridge isn't intended for engagements beyond 200 yards. However, in your typical hunting scenario, shots are usually half of this distance, so the close-range knockdown power is an easy trade for wind-beating properties that most likely won't even come into play. On the same note, their somewhat low sectional densities of 0.201 and 0.223, respectively, are positive in this instance, as they will shed velocity rather quickly after impact. This lends them to safer service near residential areas without sacrificing close-range lethality.

Getting the powder type and charge just right for the 360 Buckhammer was a bit of a challenge, as maximum velocity was the goal. A 360 Buckhammer holds only



The straight-wall 360 Buckhammer retains the rim of its .30-30 Win. parent case, making it adaptable to existing lever-gun designs.

44.2 grains of water compared to the 47.1 grains of its parent .30-30 Win.'s case, which is a significant difference. Limited capacity, coupled with a relatively thin case wall, put powder selection into a narrow range. Essentially, if the burn rate was too slow, Remington couldn't get enough of it into the case to produce effective velocities. Going with a faster-burning powder would threaten the team with pressure issues. Together, these properties greatly limited the selection of usable powders until it was discovered that powders with burn rates similar to Accurate 1680 yielded the best results with acceptable accuracy for medium- to large-game hunting.

Putting It All Together

Now for the most important question: How does the new cartridge measure up to its parent and its closest competitor? When comparing the 180-grain Buckhammer load to Remington's 170-grain .30-30 Win. load, we see a muzzle velocity increase of slightly more than 200 f.p.s. but a free recoil increase of only 2 ft.-lbs. This represents a negligible effect to even a bare human shoulder, let alone one clad in several layers of thick hunting clothes.

Velocity gets more interesting toward the end of each projectile's effective range of 200 yards. At this point, the .30-cal. bullet surpasses the .35-cal. projectile by approximately 60 f.p.s. However, given that the round fired out of the 360 Buckhammer case is heavier, it only results in an energy loss of about 21 ft.-lbs. This puts it within 2 percent of the .30-30 bullet at the same distance. By the numbers, Remington found a way to manage recoil without noticeably sacrificing lethality, making it easier on new shooters without handicapping them in the field.

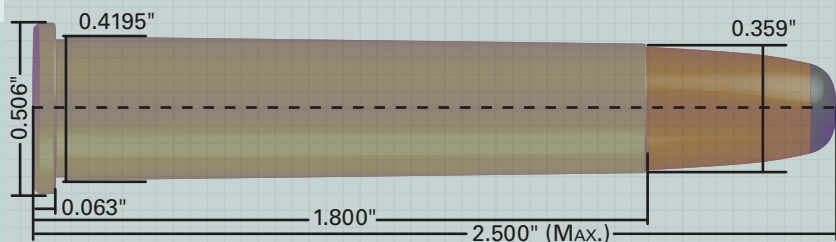
When comparing it to the 350 Legend, things get drastically different. While the Legend's 180-grain load produces 2.5 ft.-lbs. of free recoil less than the same weight Buckhammer load, it's coming out of the muzzle 300 f.p.s. slower—which creates a deficit of more than 530 ft.-lbs. of muzzle energy. Things don't truly start to even out until you hit the 200-yard mark, but, even then, the Legend is 40 f.p.s. slower and generating about 60 ft.-lbs. less energy. If you've ever hunted some of the states where this is likely to be used, it pays to capitalize on the short game, as most shots aren't much farther than 50 yards.

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

360 BUCKHAMMER CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 10' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
REMINGTON CORE-LOKT 180-GRAIN SOFT POINT	2,351 AVG. 12 Sd	2,209	2.01	2.87	2.45
.30-30 WIN. CARTRIDGE					
REMINGTON CORE-LOKT 170-GRAIN SOFT POINT	2,144 AVG. 19 Sd	1,735	1.22	1.84	1.55

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS. BOTH CARTRIDGES WERE SHOT THROUGH 20"-BARRELED HENRY H009G RIFLES. TEMPERATURE: 41° F. HUMIDITY 60%. ABBREVIATIONS: Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

360 BUCKHAMMER



The Shooting Iron

New cartridges are great, but you can only promote them so much; if there aren't quality firearms coupled with their release, they can fail to catch traction in the market. While the Remington ammunition brand suffered during the bankruptcy and restructuring process, it has gained a new lease on life through Federal and its exceptional relationship with Henry Repeating Arms. Always happy to add a new offering to its lineup, the Wisconsin-based manufacturer known for its lever-actions jumped at the opportunity to chamber a rifle in the new cartridge.

Again, there was no need to start from scratch, as the company's H009G .30-30 side-gate rifle was almost completely there—all it needed was a new barrel. Early models featured a 20" barrel and were cut with a 1:14" twist, however, as suppressors and subsonic fodder are becoming



360 BUCKHAMMER

increasingly popular in a hunting setting, production models will wear a faster 1:12" twist. This also prepares them for monolithic bullets, which are harder to stabilize due to their longer design. Of course, if an H009G can be readily made to fire 360 Buckhammer, there's no reason not to expect threaded models like the Henry X or perhaps even shiny brass versions to hit center stage once things get going.

I learned of the 360 Buckhammer and the new Henry rifle on the firing line at a media event when Remington brand representative Jonathan Harling handed me a rifle and the new cartridge. After pressing the trigger and watching a steel plate nearly dance off its hanger at 100 yards, he asked if I would be able to field-test the new equipment later that year in Ohio on a whitetail hunt; I accepted.

Home On The Range

I arrived at the lodge the day after Thanksgiving and unpacked my gear as I waited for the other five hunters to make their way to camp. Shortly after, our host stepped in and supplied us with targets and a shooting rest to confirm the zero on our rifles. Before the hunt, the folks at Henry and Remington were gracious enough to set up each rifle with a Leupold VX-Freedom 2-7X 33 mm optic and get us on paper before shipping them out. With a case of 200-grain Core-Lokts at our side, we had everything we needed to center up right off the back deck—well, except for nice weather. No less than 35 m.p.h. winds plagued our range session, and we had to do the best we could to punch groups between gusts. Most of us settled on an inch-high 50-yard zero, as it was the best way to eliminate wind-induced error.

During the process, I was reminded how swift subsequent shots could be with a lever gun and was able to shoot and follow up before the wind changed. The Henry is also an inherently lefty-friendly design, so I didn't have to listen to anybody's smart-aleck remarks as to how I work a bolt. Even in its heaviest load, shooting the 360 Buckhammer was a treat. Although I was wearing just a light sweatshirt, my shoulder didn't feel like it had just fired 40 rounds of .35-cal. ammunition, and I was able to keep my sights on target all the way through each shot. That's a critical function for any hunting rifle, as game needs to be observed immediately after a round is cracked off to ensure it dropped or to see which direction it ran for tracking purposes.

With our rifles ready for action, we made it an early night as we were set to be in our blinds before first light for the next five days. It was one of the better decisions in my life as, unbeknownst to us, we were in for some tough hunting. After seven four-hour sessions of not seeing much of anything, I made a decision to take a buck with poor genetics.

Emerging from the brush line at last light, he wasn't going to come any closer than 118 yards (measured with a rangefinder), so when he turned broadside, I let him have it. Hearing the bullet strike meat, I watched him jump and run 53 yards toward my position before sliding to a



While testing the 360 Buckhammer during an Ohio whitetail hunt, the author connected on both a buck and a doe—taking them with one shot each at 118 and 54 yards, respectively.

crashing halt. My shot passed through, puncturing both lungs and leaving an exit wound measuring approximately 1.5" in diameter. Since it was only 0.358" going in, it's fair to suggest that the bullet still had enough punch left for reliable expansion at that distance. Retracing his path, we found a prominent blood trail along its entirety, as well as obvious signs of an impact where he originally stood. This is another vital quality of a hunting cartridge, as not all recoveries are as smooth as this one.

With my buck tag punched, I was offered the opportunity to take a doe. Since I still had room in the cooler and a full day left, I figured, why not? The first half of the day was a little slow, but magic struck again at last light. A meaty doe decided to take a stroll down the path to my right, which was a direct route to a food plot. Again, I had my work cut out for me because she just wouldn't turn enough to give me a shot that would preserve any meat. With that, I knew it would take a neck shot to seal the deal. But that would prove difficult, as I was in an elevated position, and I reasoned that the bullet would pass through her neck and back and lodge in her gut sack, destroying nearly every piece of meat with a single shot. As she closed the 60-yard space between us, I cocked the hammer, put my crosshairs next to her head and tracked her as she came in, hoping for some sort of window. When she reached a distance of 54 yards, she stretched her neck to the right to get a better whiff of whatever was blowing across the field. This gave me about 4" to work with that were directly in line with the ground. Confident in my ability and my gear, I released the shot and laid her out right where she stood without losing so much as a scrap of stew meat.

Homework

After a nine-hour drive home accompanied by the most satisfying cigar of my life, I reached out to Remington for some more ammunition to perform an independent comparison test between the .30-30 Win. and 360 Buckhammer cartridges. Putting the 170-grain soft-point Core-Lokt .30-30 round head-to-head with the 180-grain 360 Buckhammer load seemed prudent, particularly since they would be fired from essentially the same rifle. To my surprise, the velocities were exceptionally close to what was advertised, leaving the

continued on p. 79

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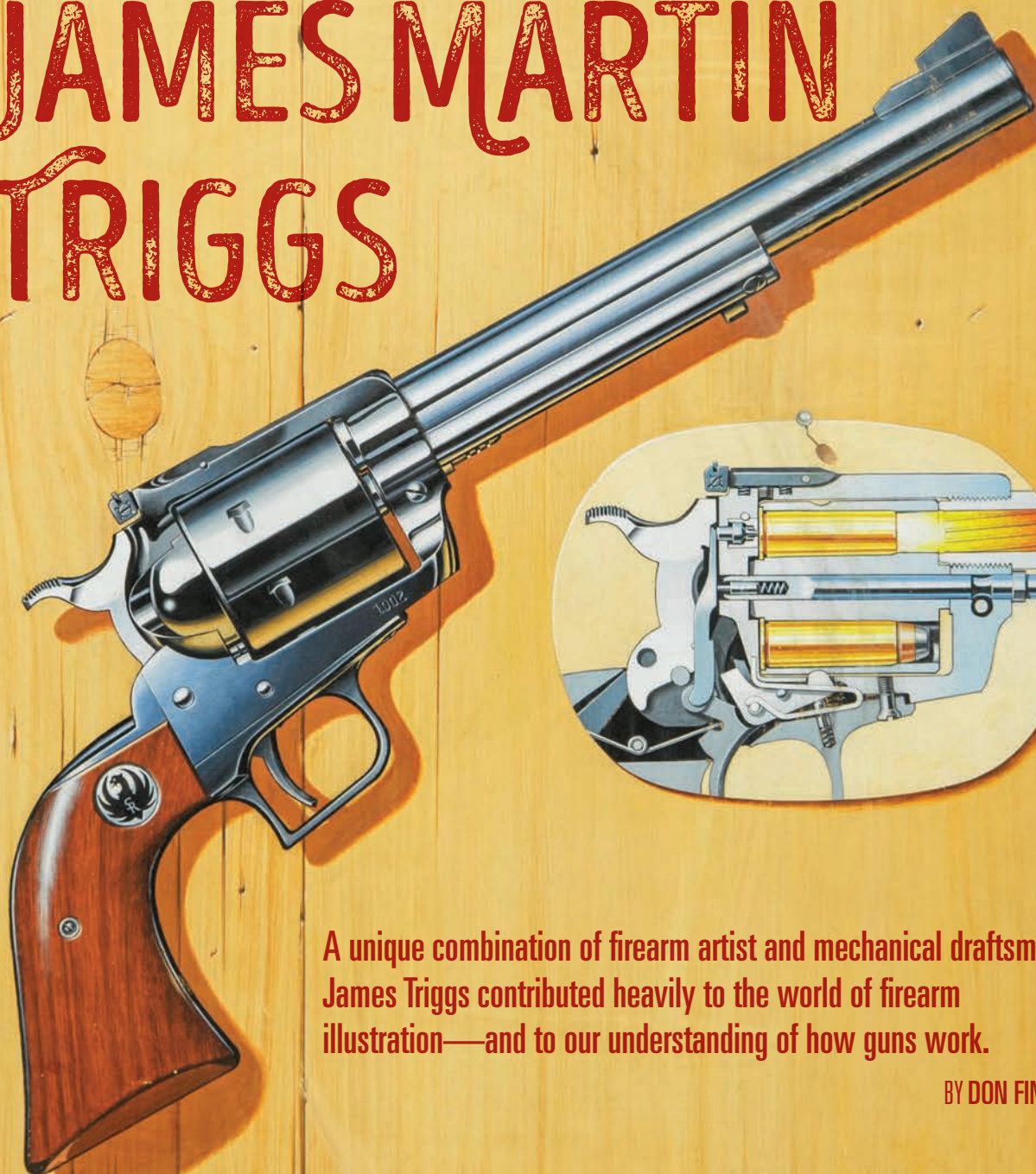
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ARTISTRY IN ARMS THE LIFE OF JAMES MARTIN TRIGGS



A unique combination of firearm artist and mechanical draftsman, James Triggs contributed heavily to the world of firearm illustration—and to our understanding of how guns work.

BY DON FINDLEY

James Martin Triggs (his friends called him Jim) was an illustrator and artist, but those terms barely capture the level of talent he brought to his work. Throughout his career, his accurate and skillful drawings of mechanical goods elevated multiple industries, though he is probably most remembered for his contributions to the firearm industry, and, in particular, for his drawings of Ruger firearms. In an age when most everything is done on a computer screen or with the help of graphic software, Triggs' work provides a glimpse into a lost age of commercial artistry that still draws the eye and enthralls the mind.

Jim Triggs was captivated by anything mechanical. During elementary school, he discovered he possessed a talent for drawing. After graduating high school, he chose to advance his artistic talents by attending a Brooklyn art school and later working (while still learning) in the advertising trade. In particular, he was fascinated with firearms and what made them work. He was intrigued by the number of mechanical events that had to take place in a semi-automatic firearm to fire, extract, eject, reload, re-cock and be ready to fire the next round in the matter of a split second. One can see his devotion in the details of his exploded drawings. Besides his family, Jim had three loves—airplanes, guns and the history of the Old West—although not necessarily in that order. Many of his paintings reflect those interests.

Triggs was born March 2, 1924, in Glen Ellyn, Ill., to Lawrence and Florence Srout Triggs. He attended Mamaroneck High School in Mamaroneck, N.Y. Jim recalled an early introduction to firearms, "As a boy, I worked as a part-time soda clerk to earn money to go to a boy's camp in Colorado. I entered a small-bore rifle course sponsored by the NRA while attending camp. It was there my shooting skills were honed to the point of winning several shooting medals."

After high school, Jim spent two years at Cornell University, College of Architecture, located in Ithaca, N.Y.



After graduating from Cornell, he spent two more years at the Pratt Institute Art School, in Brooklyn, N.Y., majoring in advertising design and illustration. During his college years, Triggs worked in various jobs, including as a parking lot attendant, doorman, *Saturday Evening Post* salesman and as a saxophone player in an Ithaca, N.Y., saloon.

Triggs' military career included service in the U.S. Army Air Corps, followed by two years in the New York State Guard. During this period, he was introduced to one of his lifelong interests: the machine gun. Jim had an infatuation with



At the 1982 meeting of the Society of American Historical Artists, Triggs was awarded the Remington Arms Award for the best portrayal of an historic firearm and also received an Art West Merit Award for his painting "Heart of Gold." Triggs also served as a consultant and advisor to the group's president.



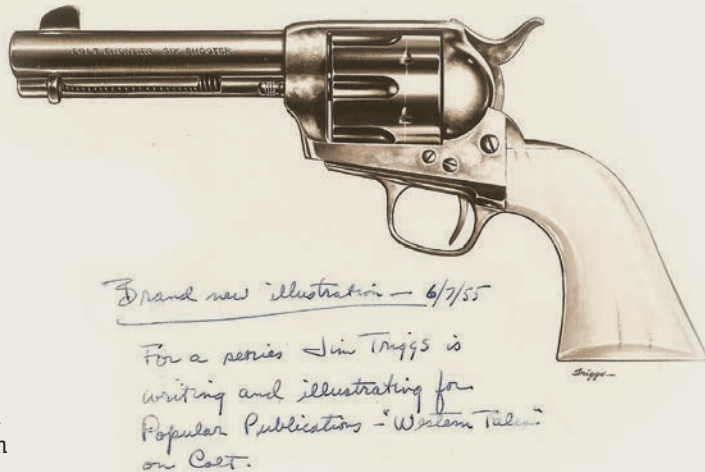
JAMES MARTIN TRIGGS

machine guns, airplanes and about anything to do with the Old West, which included cowboys, Indians, guns and trains.

In the mid-1940s, Jim was employed in the aviation industry. This included work at the Republic Aviation Corp., Liberty Aircraft Products Co., Edo Aircraft Corp. and American Airlines, Inc.—all companies in the state of New York. At Republic, Liberty and Edo, Triggs participated in graphic production illustration programs and prepared layout production programs for the construction of airframe components. At American, he worked as an airplane overhaul mechanic.

After his time in the aviation field, Triggs accepted a position with Charles E. Cooper, Inc., a general commercial art studio, as an art apprentice. Due to the experience gained at Cooper, he was then offered a job as staff artist for advertising at Sports Afield Publishing Co., Inc. At Sports Afield, he designed and produced sales promotion materials for trade show displays. Triggs later moved to Roy Germanotta, Inc., as staff illustrator with general freelance assignments in advertising art and product illustration in 1948.

Triggs enjoyed working with his hands, restoring old guns, constructing model airplanes and building miniatures, so he took a job at Lester Associates in 1951 where he worked as a model maker, designer and draftsman. He participated in the design and fabrication of detailed scale models for the U.S. Navy and various industrial customers. His duties included general machine work, operation of lathes, milling machines and shapers, as well as working in the wood shop.



Next, Triggs relocated to New York City in 1953 where he joined the firm of Fenga & Donderi, Inc., as a staff illustrator. There he worked on the layout and design of brochures, annual reports, advertising and sales promotion materials, as well as lettering and photo-retouching.

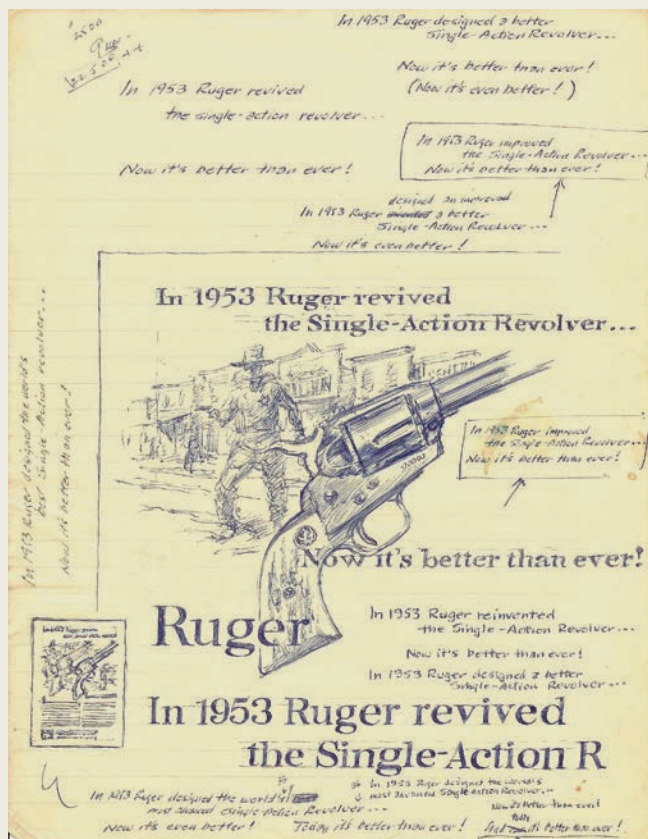
After seven years at F&D, Triggs struck out on his own as a self-employed freelance illustrator and writer. His work during the following 15 years was increasingly more specialized in the aviation and firearm fields, divided between design, illustration and writing assignments. Writings in the aviation field included technical articles for *Air Progress Magazine* and two books in the Modern Aircraft series published by Sports Car Press.

Writings in the firearm field included numerous articles for *American Rifleman*, *Gun Digest*, *Adventure*, *Railroad*, *Guns*, *Guns Annual*, *Guns & Ammo* and *Arms Gazette*, just to mention a few. In many of these publications, Triggs' art graced the covers and went along with his drawings and illustrations to enhance his articles. Triggs' art was featured on the covers of 15 *Gun Digests*, beginning in 1958 and ending in 1989. He was capable not only of illustrating modern guns, like the then-new Smith & Wesson Model 41, which was featured on the 1958 cover of *Gun Digest*. He also illustrated classic arms, such as the Volcanic pistol shown on *Gun Digest's* 1960 cover, and Winchester rifles, which were illustrated on the 1967 cover. Triggs' last *Gun Digest* cover highlighted Ruger's new GP100 and SP101 revolvers. His "Exploded Views," featured in *American Rifleman* and other various firearm publications, set the standard in that type of illustration.

In addition to work in aviation and firearm publications, Jim provided general technical writing and advertising/sales promotion copy for a number of industrial accounts, as well as copy for many, many advertising agencies over the years, most of which would probably be recognizable to advertising industry professionals today. Just to scratch the surface, Triggs' industrial accounts during that time included: Shell Oil Co.; General Dynamics; General Electric; IBM; Smith & Wesson; Colt; Sturm, Ruger & Co.; and Marlin Firearms.

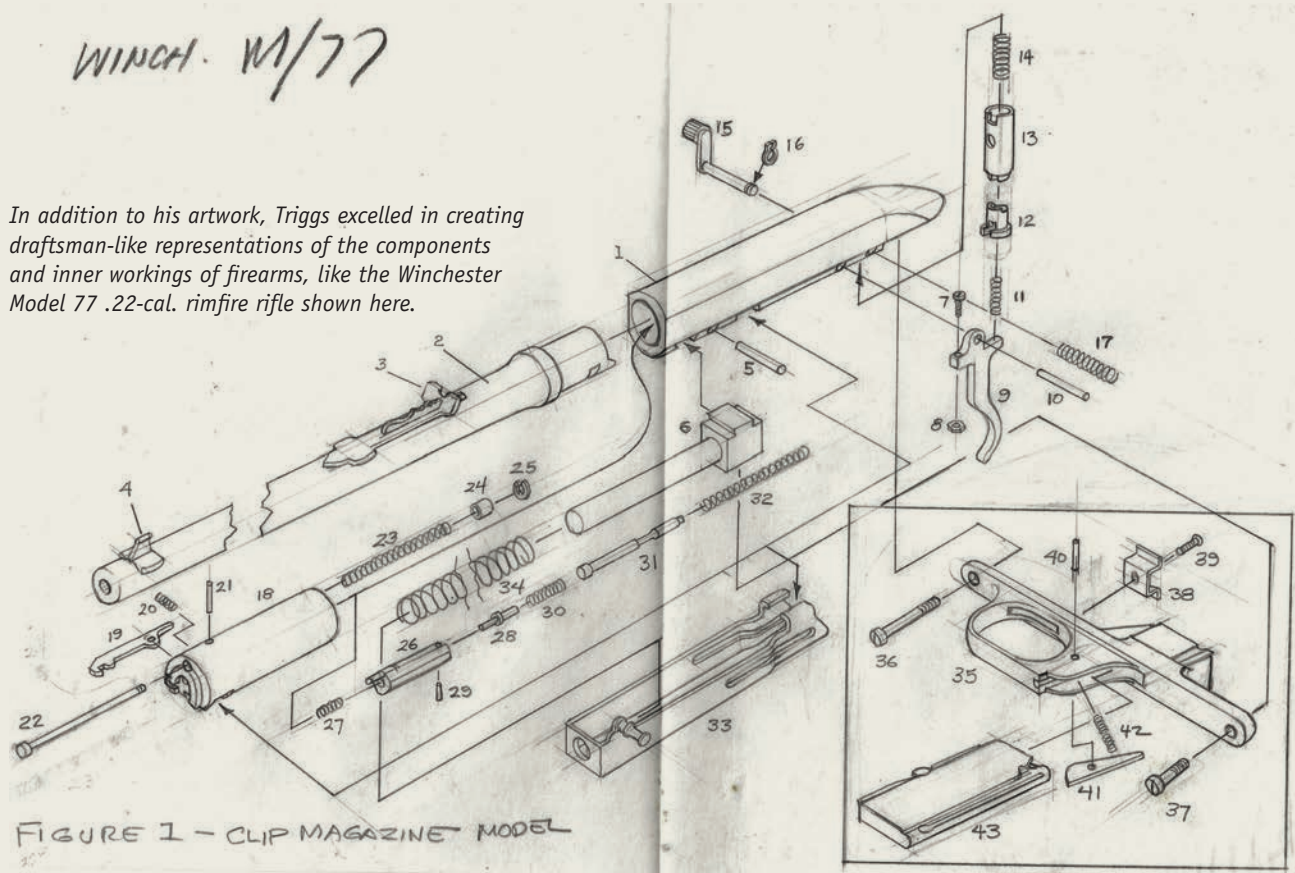
Triggs' first job for Ruger came in 1958. It was for a parts and cutaway drawing of the new Ruger Bearcat revolver, which was followed by various other contract

While Triggs worked for many commercial manufacturers both inside and outside of the firearm industry, he built a longtime relationship with Ruger that began in the late 1950s and lasted until Triggs' death in 1992.



WINCH. M/77

In addition to his artwork, Triggs excelled in creating draftsman-like representations of the components and inner workings of firearms, like the Winchester Model 77 .22-cal. rimfire rifle shown here.



assignments. In 1976, Triggs was hired as advertising and executive art director and head of the Hawkeye Communications Division of Sturm, Ruger & Co., an in-house advertising agency where he was engaged in the design, writing and production of all Ruger print advertising and sales promotion materials for domestic, military and export markets. He was also responsible for handling domestic sales correspondence, public relations and contact with editors and writers of national firearm and outdoor publications. He held this position for the next 12 years.

During that time, Bill Ruger, Sr., and Jim Triggs became close friends. They were drawn together through mutual respect and an admiration for the accomplishments achieved by the other. Just about every Sunday morning, provided both men were in town, Jim could be found drinking coffee with Bill at the latter's kitchen table. The two would discuss everything from current work projects and current events to model trains and antique cars. Mr. Ruger was the subject of several of Triggs' paintings, and three of Triggs' paintings were prominently displayed on the walls of Ruger's home alongside those by such artists as Fredric Remington and Carl Rungius.

In the 1970s, due to failing health, Triggs opened a small studio in his home where he continued some contract work for Ruger along

with an occasional painting. Toward the end of his life, even when he was bedridden and incapable of producing much work, Ruger kept him on the company payroll, ensuring that he still had health insurance.

Triggs was invited to join the Society of American Historical Artists (SAHA) in 1981. At the premier SAHA show in 1982, he was presented the Remington Arms Co. Award for the best portrayal of a historical firearm and an Art West Magazine Merit award. At the second annual SAHA show in 1983, Triggs again won the Remington Award for his paintings. Jim was considered to be one of the best *trompe l'oeil* (fool the eye) painters, ever. He was elevated to the office of secretary of SAHA in 1983.

In his personal life, and in earlier days before his health began to decline, Jim was a volunteer fireman with the Larchmont Fire Dept., where he reached the rank of captain. He married Mimi Jennewein on July 7, 1972. She was the daughter of renowned Italian portrait painter and sculptor Paul Jennewein.

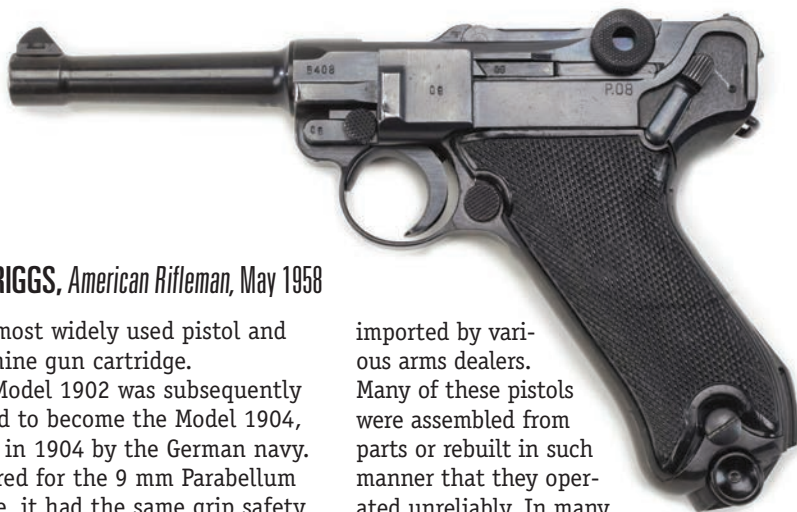
James M. Triggs lost his long struggle with emphysema on June 26, 1992. He left behind his wife, Mimi, three sons, a stepson, a stepdaughter and brother. He was 68 years old, and he accomplished much in that time.

Jim was a friend and a gentleman, and the world was a better place with him in it. As an illustrator, there was none better. All who knew him miss him. 



Luger P08

BY JAMES M. TRIGGS, *American Rifleman*, May 1958



In 1893, the German firm of Ludwig Loewe offered what was designed to become the first commercially successful self-loading pistol chambered for a high-velocity smokeless-powder cartridge. Known as the Borchardt, after its American inventor Hugo Borchardt, this new pistol featured a revolutionary toggle-breech mechanism designed in principle by Sir Hiram Maxim of Maxim machine gun fame.

Although well-received, the Borchardt pistol had a relatively short production life, thanks to design improvements effected by Georg Luger and patented by him in 1900. Although preserving the toggle-breech principle and removable-clip magazine, Luger's re-design was drastic in concept. The resultant pistol was lighter, neater, easier to manufacture and possessed improved handling and pointing qualities.

The first Luger pistol to be produced in quantity was the 7.65 mm Model 1900, which featured a unique grip-safety device to prevent accidental discharge unless the piece was actually grasped in normal firing position.

Switzerland, in 1901, became the first nation to adopt the Model 1900 Luger pistol as an official service arm. It is interesting to note that U.S. Ordnance also in 1901 purchased 1,000 Model 1900 Luger pistols for a subsequent field trial that resulted in ultimate rejection of the design. In 1902, *Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken* (DWM), manufacturer of the Luger pistol, offered the Model 1902 chambered for a new 9 mm rimless cartridge. Designated the 9 mm Parabellum, this new development was destined to become the

world's most widely used pistol and submachine gun cartridge.

The Model 1902 was subsequently improved to become the Model 1904, adopted in 1904 by the German navy. Chambered for the 9 mm Parabellum cartridge, it had the same grip safety, toggle lock and flat mainspring of earlier models. The year 1904 also saw the introduction of the Luger carbine with extra-long barrel, wooden forearm and detachable shoulder stock.

In 1906, DWM offered the improved Model 1906, which featured a coiled, rather than flat, mainspring. This was the first of the so-called New Model Lugers, and all earlier versions were thus automatically grouped into the Old Model category. The Model 1906 was equipped with a grip safety but lacked the toggle-locking device found on earlier models.

Despite relatively early adoption by the German navy, the German army waited until 1908 to adopt what became known as the *Pistole 08* or Model 1908 Luger pistol. Of coiled-mainspring type, the Model 1908 was of 9 mm Parabellum chambering and lacked the grip-safety feature. Early Model 1908 Lugers were not fitted with the hold-open device subsequently adopted.

Shortly after army acceptance of the *Pistole 08*, an additional manufacturing facility was established in Erfurt, Germany, at the Royal Arsenal. All Luger pistols issued to German forces during the World War I period were manufactured by DWM or at Erfurt. During and after World War I, a flood of war-souvenir Luger pistols were brought to the U.S. by returning servicemen. Additional quantities were

imported by various arms dealers. Many of these pistols were assembled from parts or rebuilt in such manner that they operated unreliably. In many instances, original proof, manufacturer's and service markings had been obliterated or ground off. A comparatively few dealers succeeded in obtaining good-quality Luger pistols for the U.S. market.

After World War I, the firm of Simerson & Co., located in Suhl, Germany, furnished the Luger pistols used by the new 100,000-man German *Reichswehr* authorized by the Versailles Treaty. This contract was completed in 1932. In 1930, production of Luger pistols was resumed by the Mauser firm in Oberndorf, Germany, with production continued during World War II. The firm of Heinrich Krieghoff also produced a quantity of Luger pistols for the German *Luftwaffe* during the early 1930s.

German production of the Luger pistol ceased with the termination of World War II, although a few guns were assembled for occupation forces after the war was over. Luger pistols were at one time produced in England by the Vickers firm and by Swiss government-subsidized arsenals.

It is important to note that several different models of the Luger pistol exist. Basic field disassembly is the same for all models, although the presence or absence of grip safety, toggle lock, hold-open device, etc. will affect procedures for detailed disassembly.

Disassembly Procedure

Remove magazine (46) and check to be sure pistol is unloaded. Press muzzle against a hard surface, moving barrel (2) and receiver assembly (3) back on frame about 1/4" to release tension on recoil spring, then turn locking bolt (33) (Fig. 1) to vertical position.

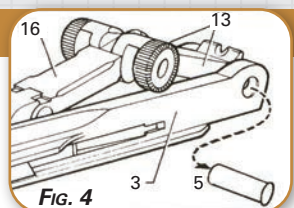
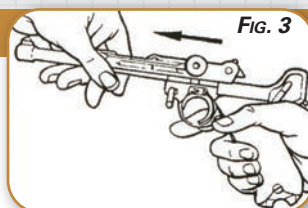
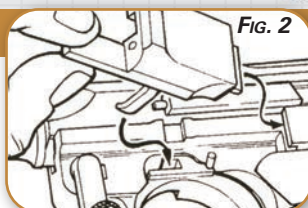
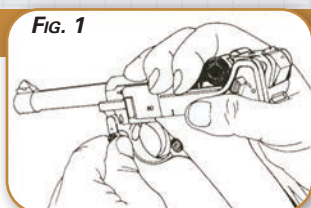
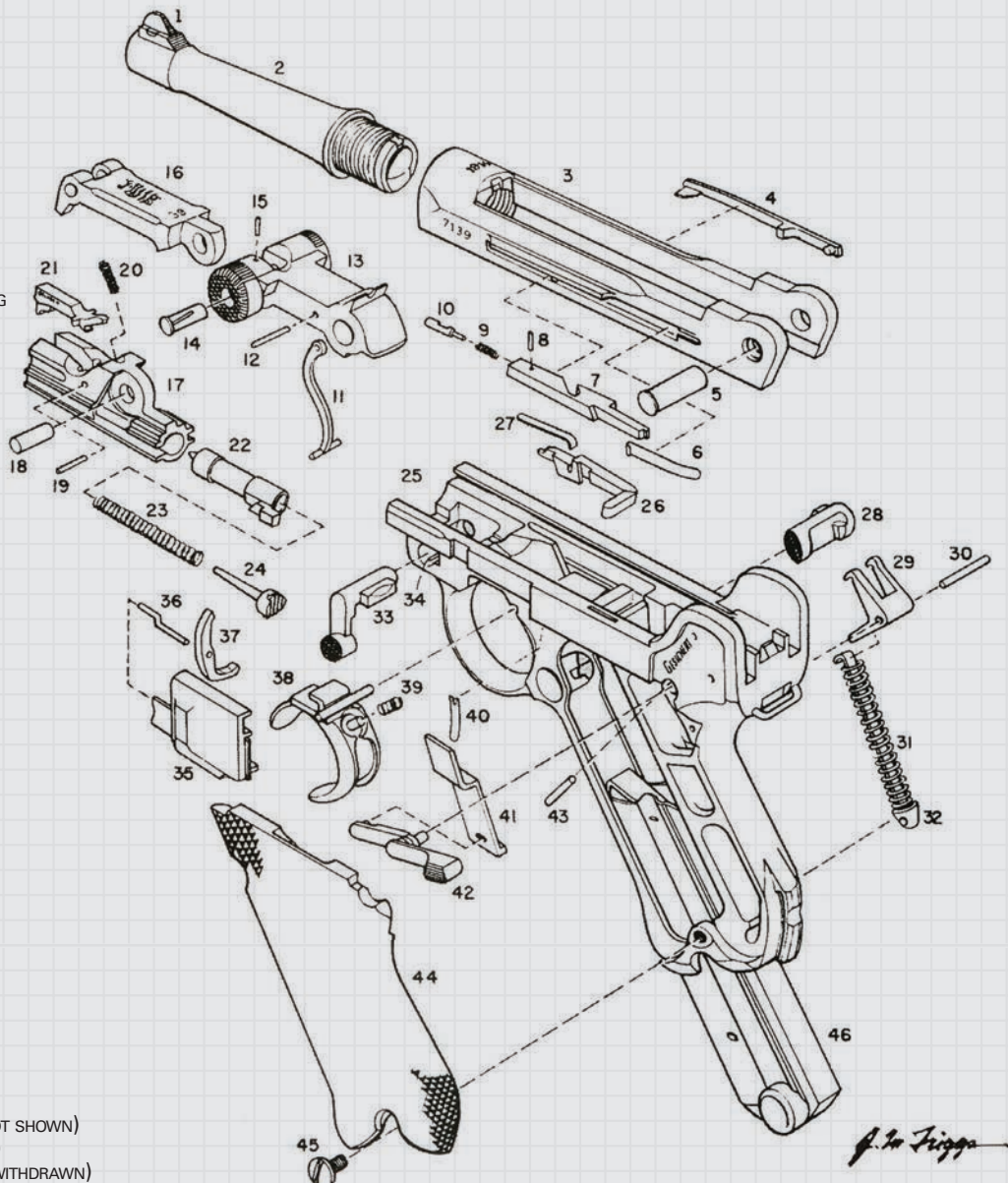
Lift out trigger plate assembly (35) from frame (Fig. 2). When re-assembling pistol, trigger lever (37) in trigger plate must fall into its slot in trigger (38) and small lip at rear of trigger plate must be inserted under side of frame in recess provided.

Slide complete barrel, receiver and breech assembly forward and out of receiver (Fig. 3). During this operation, note the position of the coupling link (11) with relation to recoil lever (29) in rear of frame for reference in re-assembly.

Grasp knurled knobs of rear toggle link

Legend

1. FRONT SIGHT
2. BARREL
3. RECEIVER
4. EJECTOR
5. RECEIVER AXLE
6. TRIGGER BAR SPRING
7. TRIGGER BAR
8. TRIGGER BAR PLUNGER PIN
9. TRIGGER BAR PLUNGER SPRING
10. TRIGGER BAR PLUNGER
11. COUPLING LINK
12. COUPLING LINK PIN
13. REAR TOGGLE LINK
14. TOGGLE AXLE
15. TOGGLE AXLE PIN
16. FORWARD TOGGLE LINK
17. BREECHBLOCK
18. BREECHBLOCK PIN
19. EXTRACTOR PIN
20. EXTRACTOR SPRING
21. EXTRACTOR
22. FIRING PIN
23. FIRING PIN SPRING
24. FIRING PIN SPRING GUIDE
25. FRAME
26. HOLD-OPEN LATCH
27. HOLD-OPEN LATCH SPRING
28. MAGAZINE CATCH
29. RECOIL LEVER
30. RECOIL LEVER PIN
31. MAINSPRING
32. MAINSPRING GUIDE
33. LOCKING BOLT
34. LOCKING BOLT SPRING
35. TRIGGER PLATE
36. TRIGGER LEVER PIN
37. TRIGGER LEVER
38. TRIGGER
39. TRIGGER SPRING
40. MAGAZINE CATCH SPRING
41. SAFETY BAR
42. SAFETY CATCH
43. SAFETY PIN
44. STOCKS (RIGHT HAND STOCK NOT SHOWN)
45. STOCK SCREWS (ONE SHOWN)
46. MAGAZINE (SHOWN PARTIALLY WITHDRAWN)

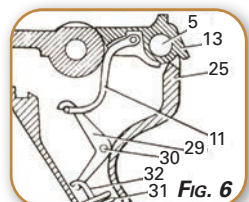
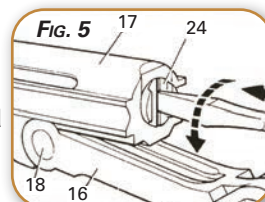


(13) and pull upward, buckling rear and forward toggle links (13 & 16) slightly to relieve tension (Fig. 4). Press receiver axle (5) in slightly from right side of receiver with fingertip. Axle may now be grasped from left side of receiver and withdrawn. Toggle and breechblock assembly can now be withdrawn from the rear of receiver.

Invert toggle and breechblock assembly and insert a screwdriver blade in slot (Fig. 5) in firing pin spring guide (24) in rear of breechblock (17). Press guide in about 1/16" and turn counterclockwise 1/4" turn and allow firing spring guide and firing pin spring

(23) to come out, taking care not to allow compressed spring to escape. Firing pin (22) can now be dropped out rear. Extractor (21) may be removed by holding thumb over top of breechblock and extractor, and drifting out extractor pin (19), allowing extractor to pop up. Lift extractor out and extractor spring (20) may now be lifted out of its seat.

The above steps complete normal fieldstripping necessary for cleaning and lubrication. Re-assembly is accomplished in reverse order. When replacing barrel,



receiver and breech assembly on frame, be sure coupling link (11) suspended from rear end of toggle assembly (Fig. 6) drops into its proper place in front of inclined upper arms of recoil lever (29). The proper relationship of these parts assembled is shown here.

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"I AM FREEDOM"

NRA's 152nd Annual Meetings & Exhibits



In a celebration of freedom like no other, tens of thousands of NRA members gathered together in Indy.

BY NRA STAFF

In a show of strength, 77,246 NRA members celebrated our Second Amendment freedom in a display of patriotism, solidarity and fun at NRA's 152nd Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Indianapolis, April 13-15. This year, regular NRA members volunteered to have their faces and their stories put proudly on display on banners throughout the halls of the Indianapolis Convention Center. "Defend the Second" they proudly proclaimed.

They were backed up by the words of NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, who spoke boldly, loudly and proclaimed what freedom is, what it means—and what it costs—in his own speech on "I Am Freedom" during the Annual Meeting of Members.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre (top) told NRA members, "Second Amendment freedom is the most precious thing we have. ... Year after year, election after election, the NRA stands, we fight, and we win!" At the Indianapolis Convention Center, there were more than 14 acres of guns and gear on display for NRA members (above, center). Longtime NRA Director and former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr (l.) was elected NRA first vice president. David G. Coy was re-elected second vice president.

Representing the voice of freedom, he said, "I am freedom, and I'm proud, and all I ask in return is that you talk about me, stand up for me, tell your kids why so many have died for me ... I am offended that career criminals that abuse me are set free time and time again. I'm offended when DAs don't do their jobs, and prosecutors don't do the jobs they were hired to do. ... I am freedom, and I'm more relevant than ever." You can watch in its entirety at americanrifleman.org/content/i-am-freedom.

The NRA-ILA Leadership Forum on Friday afternoon drew thousands, and they were addressed by NRA leaders, including LaPierre and President Charles Cotton, but there were also messages delivered by our national leaders, including congressmen, senators and governors, as well as by Indiana's own former governor and former Vice President Mike Pence. Capping the event was a rousing speech from 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump. For a more detailed report on the forum, turn the page.

In the exhibit hall, there were more than 14 acres of guns and gear, allowing NRA members to handle the latest and greatest in new firearms, visit with guides and outfitters and take in the educational exhibits put together by NRA's gun-collecting affiliates.

There were also dozens of workshops, celebrity appearances and free seminars



Cutting the ribbon to start the event (r.) was the Potterfield family—(l. to r.) Eliza, Brenda, Jay, Larry and Sarah—of Midway USA, which was the official sponsor. NRA President Charles Cotton was elected to a third term (above, r.). “The highest purpose of a firearm is to protect innocent life,” he said. The Friends of NRA Banquet & Auction was held Thursday night and the Annual NRA-ILA Dinner & Auction (far r.) was on Friday evening after the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum. At the Women’s Leadership Forum, NRA Director and North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson said, “[Y]ou shatter the left-wing narratives of women not shooting, women hating guns ... and despising the NRA, despising gun rights and being complacent on the constitution. At the Member’s Meeting (above), the oldest Life member—for the third year in a row—was Herbert A. Louis. The youngest was Lillian Raney (below, r.) of the David A. Raney family.



offered for NRA members, including the NRA-ILA Grassroots Workshop, how to get into long-range shooting and talks on the “Guns of the Russo-Ukrainian War” and “Sniping in Ukraine.” While waiting on a Wall of Guns drawing, Life Member Mike Williams summed up the feelings of many in the enthusiastic crowd. “This is great. It’s fantastic to be here with so many freedom-loving patriots. We are back!” he said.

NRA Life member, hunter and South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem was recognized at the 2023 NRA Hunters’ Leadership Forum with the NRA Distinguished Hunters Leadership Award to honor her leadership in protecting the future of hunting and wildlife conservation. “How dare we leave [our children] less of a country than we grew up in,” said Gov. Noem, who also appeared at the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum. “Talk about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights—about what secures freedom.” This year saw the return of the National Friends of NRA Banquet and Auction Thursday night, raising money for worthy causes.

At the 15th Annual NRA-ILA Dinner & Auction, Life Member Raul Mendez told his incredible story of how, despite being shot in the head, he was able to save his family by drawing his concealed handgun and “putting four shots” into the attacker, “sending him straight to Hell.” His family trains hard, tells of their experiences, and this is their message: “This family will never be victims again.”

At the 17th NRA Women’s Leadership Forum Luncheon, North Carolina

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson focused on women leaders since the beginning of time. “Throughout history, it has always been women who stood up in the role of leadership, taking a role to ensure that freedom reigns—always. Wherever there has been a revolution, that revolution did not survive or did not get started until the women got mad.”

At the official prayer breakfast on Sunday, author Jimmy Sites of Spiritual Outdoor Adventures delivered a relatable sermon based on waterfowl adventures with his friends the Robertsons of “Duck Dynasty” fame and through audience participation that demonstrated how “the devil has a 3D plan to distract, deceive and desensitize.”

After the crowds cleared, the NRA Board of Directors met to discuss association business. Following a recommendation from the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee, the Board amended the bylaws to allow Charles Cotton’s election to a third term as NRA president. Bob Barr was elected first vice president and David Coy was re-elected as second vice president. Wayne LaPierre was re-elected executive vice president, and he named Randy Kozuch as the executive director of the Institute for Legislative Action and Joseph P. DeBergalis Jr. as executive director of General Operations.

Plans are underway for a celebration of freedom as big as Texas for the 153rd NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Dallas, May 16-19, 2024. We’ll see you there! 🇺🇸





NRA-ILA

Leadership Forum A Resounding Success

Wayne LaPierre

“When you fight like hell for freedom, you get more of it.”

SCAN TO WATCH WAYNE’S SPEECH



On April 14, thousands of NRA members packed into Hall A of the Indiana Convention Center to attend the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum—one of the most popular events held each year at the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits—where they heard from a long list of speakers who are dedicated to defending the Second Amendment.

Not only did the attendees—a standing-room-only crowd—hear from NRA leaders like Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and President Charles Cotton, but they also heard from numerous elected officials and pro-gun candidates for President of the United States. Each speaker brought his or her own message of support for our right to keep and bear arms, and support for the dedicated members of NRA who fight, every day, to protect freedom.

Indiana elected officials who spoke were Gov. Eric Holcomb and U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, as well as former Indiana governor and former Vice President Mike Pence. House Judiciary Chair and U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan came from the neighboring state of Ohio. And the long list of declared and possible candidates for president who spoke or sent a video message included

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, American business leader and bestselling author Vivek Ramaswamy, South Carolina U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, and, of course, former President Donald Trump.

Gov. Noem didn’t just give a well-received speech, but she put an exclamation point on it when she invited Wayne LaPierre back to the stage to witness her signing of an executive order. Gov. Noem stated the order would protect “those industries related to the gun and firearm industry from being discriminated against by financial institutions—banking, credit card or otherwise.”

The general themes of the speeches included praise for NRA members’ ever-vigilant defense of the Second Amendment, thanks for supporting candidates who share in the goal of preserving our freedom and calls to work on ensuring success in the upcoming 2024 elections.

You can watch the 2023 NRA-ILA Leadership Forum by using the QR code at left or by visiting the official NRA YouTube channel.



Former President Donald Trump

"I was proud to be the most pro-gun, pro-Second Amendment president you've ever had in the White House."



Gov. Ron DeSantis

"Earlier this month, I signed into law constitutional carry. ... We now have a majority of states in this country that recognize such a right."



Gov. Kristi Noem

"Those 27 words [the Second Amendment] are freedom's last line of defense."



Former Vice President Mike Pence

"We stood, without apology, for the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms."



U.S. Sen. Mike Braun

"Self-defense is an American right."



U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan

"Thank you for being part of this great organization; this organization that is committed to protecting freedom."



Gov. Asa Hutchinson

"I have stood with the NRA through my time in public service. ... I am proud to stand with you to protect... our Second Amendment."



U.S. Sen. Rick Scott

"Unfortunately, the radical left, they want Americans, it seems, to be unsafe and unarmed, but not on my watch."



Mike Pompeo

"What you're doing matters; protecting the fundamental right to keep and bear arms."



Gov. Nikki Haley

"The NRA has been a great partner for a long time."



Gov. Chris Sununu

"They gave me a 'red flag' law ... and I gave them a red veto pen."



Vivek Ramaswamy

"We have a Second Amendment that gives teeth to every one of the other amendments in that Constitution."



EAA Girsan Regard MC Gen 3 Optic

The Beretta Model 92 is easily one of the most recognizable pistols on the planet. Whether it be on a soldier's hip or in an action movie, most Americans have seen one, and many would love to have one of their own—but they can be pricey. Imported by EAA and manufactured in Turkey by Girsan, the Regard MC line closely mimics Beretta's iconic pistol, but it is available at a significantly lower price. And one of the most recent additions to the family—the Regard MC Gen 3 Optic—doesn't stop there, as it not only incorporates a major change to the Beretta's control scheme, but also adds some new features, including an optic-cut slide with a factory-mounted micro red-dot.

The Regard MC Gen 3 Optic is a hammer-fired, double-action/single-action semi-automatic pistol that feeds from a detachable box magazine. Girsan includes only one 18-rounder,



An adapter plate for the Derry Far-Dot optic fits the Regard MC in such a way as to extend the slide's cocking serrations.

but sourcing extra magazines is a simple matter, as they share compatibility with the Beretta 92. Also similar but not interchangeable are the barrel, slide and locking block. When the gun fires, these three parts recoil together until, eventually, the locking block falls away, allowing the barrel and slide to separate, but only after chamber pressure has fallen to a safe level. Upon return to battery, a fresh round is stripped from the magazine and the locking block inserts its lugs back into their respective cutouts in the slide.

Unlike most Beretta 92s (and more like the Taurus line of Model 92 clones), the Regard Gen 3 employs bilateral

frame-mounted thumb safeties rather than the typical pair of slide-mounted levers. This feature allows the end user to either carry the gun "cocked and locked" like an M1911 or carry with the hammer down after manually decocking it. If one does choose to carry in double-action fashion, this Regard also features a half-cock safety that precludes the hammer's contact with the firing pin. The pistol also features a firing pin block for added reassurance. Other modern features built into the pistol's aluminum frame include synthetic stocks and a four-slot accessory rail machined into the dustcover. Purists will rejoice in the fact that Girsan retained the classic lanyard loop and push-button magazine release, the latter being reversible for left-handed operation.

While the frame is exciting, the biggest news lies in what Girsan has done to the slide. Through only minimal machining, the company fit an adapter plate over the rear of the slide to accept the included Far-Dot red-dot by Derry. This Shield-footprint optic remains perpetually lit and dims or brightens automatically based on the ambient lighting conditions. The aft of the unit also houses a pair of fiber-optic rods that act as a rear sight and align naturally with the elevated front sight that is dovetailed into the slide. The optic adapter plate features deep serrations that align with those cut into the slide, providing a much-increased gripping area when compared to other models built on the Model 92 platform.

Our range day was met with hot and hazy conditions that made holding the all-black pistol challenging at times. Accuracy testing from a sandbag rest was conducted using factory-new offerings from Federal and Speer and re-manufactured range fodder from Patriot Defense. Taking advantage of the red-dot, we fired 25-yard groups that measured as small as 1.38"—excellent

The pistol's dustcover features a built-in Picatinny rail, and its slide incorporates vertical cocking serrations at the front (!). The Derry Far-Dot optic features fiber-optic rods at its rear that can be used in combination with the post front sight dovetailed to the slide.





Bilateral thumb safeties (top) make the Regard Gen 3 stand out from the Beretta 92 pack, and vertical serrations on the frontstrap (above) help anchor the gun during recoil.

results at that distance. All accuracy testing was fired in single-action mode to take advantage of the shorter, lighter 5-lb., 15-oz., trigger pull.

We then moved on to function testing by engaging a variety of steel targets set at different distances. All shooters agreed that the eye found the dot without much fuss and that the optic aided greatly in transitioning between targets and shooting on the move. The overall function was flawless, as the Regard MC ate everything we fed it and didn't experience a single issue during our 250-round test. We wrapped things up with a fieldstrip that involved disengaging the takedown lever retainer by pressing it in from the other side of the pistol and then rotating the takedown lever. After which, the slide assembly can be slid off of the front of the frame. Lastly, the spring, guide rod and barrel assembly can be lifted free from the slide, providing access for cleaning and lubrication.

The Girsan Regard Gen 3 Optic proved to be an outstanding target pistol that performed extremely well given its price point. It is obvious that Girsan puts a high level of pride into its work, as our test pistol was free of tool marks and retained an even Cerakote finish on par with some American makers. Overall, this gun would make a fine addition to the collection for anyone who enjoys collecting Beretta 92-style pistols in specific or who just wants a premium-quality firearm without the premium price tag. 

EAA GIRSAN REGARD MC GEN 3 OPTIC

IMPORTER: EUROPEAN AMERICAN ARMORY CORP. (DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 3008, COCOA, FL 32924; (321) 639-4842; EAAcorp.com



MANUFACTURER: GIRSAN (TURKEY)
ACTION TYPE: RECOIL-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTERFIRE PISTOL
CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER
SLIDE: STEEL; BLACK CERAKOTE FINISH
FRAME: ALUMINUM ALLOY; BLACK CERAKOTE FINISH
RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE; 1:10" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: 18-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX
SIGHTS: FAR-DOT OPTIC WITH INTEGRAL FIBER-OPTIC DOTS; FIXED, RAISED FRONT
TRIGGER: DOUBLE-ACTION, 10-LB., 7-OZ. PULL; SINGLE-ACTION, 5-LB., 15-OZ. PULL
WIDTH: 1.35"
WEIGHT: 35.3 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, CLEANING BRUSH, SCREWDRIVER, LOCK
MSRP: \$702

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 10' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL SYNTech DEFENSE 138-GRAIN SJHP	1,092 Avg. 29 Sd	365	1.41	1.96	1.68
PATRIOT DEFENSE 124-GRAIN FMJ	1,150 Avg. 8 Sd	364	1.38	2.42	1.82
SPEER GOLD DOT G2 147-GRAIN JHP	1,027 Avg. 21 Sd	344	1.55	2.87	2.15
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.88

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 82° F. HUMIDITY 70%. ABBREVIATIONS: FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SJHP (SYNTHETIC JACKETED HOLLOW POINT).



Fieldstripping reveals that, at its core, the EAA Regard Gen 3 Optic pistol relies on the time-proven Beretta 92 design that has served the U.S. military for decades.

Howa Carbon Elevate



In order to find the most elusive game, one needs to be willing to put in the miles—and that could very well mean a day's hike in and a day's hike out of hard-to-reach hunting grounds. For that reason, manufacturers have always sought ways to make rifles lighter without sacrificing accuracy. Several methods work for achieving these characteristics, but none are more modern than the proper application of carbon fiber. Japanese manufacturer Howa has always had the accuracy portion of the equation down, and now it has taken a significant step toward weight reduction with its Carbon Elevate rifle.

The Howa Carbon Elevate is a centerfire bolt-action built around the M1500-series receiver. This action utilizes a two-lug, push-feed bolt system, with a pivoting M16-style extractor and plunger ejector, that delivers ammunition to the chamber from an internal four-round magazine. The magazine well features a handy hinged floorplate to allow the user to unload without having to chamber each round individually. The action yields a 90-degree bolt throw that most riflemen will find familiar. Threaded to the action is a barrel that consists of a hammer-forged, stainless-steel core wrapped in several layers of carbon fiber. This



The Carbon Elevate is based on the time-proven Howa 1500 action, with a trigger guard-mounted release (above, l.) for the hinged floorplate (l.), along with a three-position sliding safety (above).

construction ensures rigidity without the need for excess steel, while also hastening the dissipation of heat.

While a lightweight barreled action is a step in the right direction, a proper stock also helps determine whether a rifle is fit for the back-country or not. For this critical component, Howa turned to Stocky's for its vast experience with carbon fiber. Using a blend of proprietary materials and processes, Stocky's produced a hand-laid carbon-fiber cradle specifically for this rifle. To

keep weight at a minimum, it features a lightweight carbon version of its signature Accublock bedding system. This keeps the barreled action right where it needs to be using nothing more than a standard pair of action screws. It also allows for additional bedding if one should so desire. Lastly, it is paired with a LimbSaver recoil pad to soften the 6-lb., 8-oz., rifle's recoil. Prospective buyers can choose between a natural carbon-fiber finish or Kryptek's Altitude camouflage pattern.

At the time of this writing, the rifle is available in four chamberings that span the long, short and mini actions that Howa offers; our test sample was chambered in 6.5 mm Creedmoor,

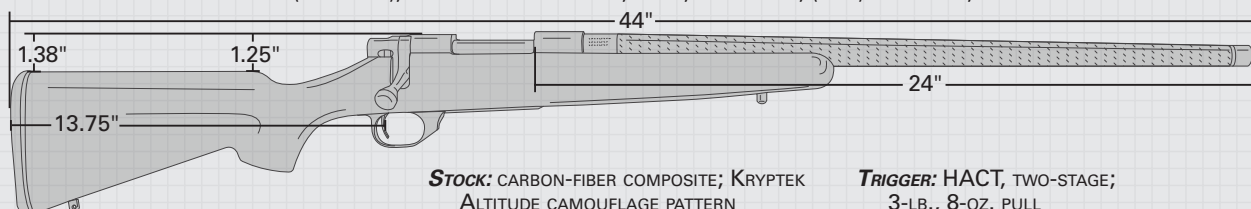


The Carbon Elevate's barreled receiver separates from its stock by removing two action screws. Note the threaded muzzle and cap (far r.).



HOWA CARBON ELEVATE

IMPORTER: LEGACY SPORTS INTL. (DEPT. AR), 4674 AIRCENTER CIRCLE, RENO, NV 89502; (800) 553-4229; LEGACYSPORTS.COM



MANUFACTURER: HOWA (JAPAN)

ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE

CHAMBERING: 6.5 MM CREEDMOOR

RECEIVER: CARBON STEEL; BLUED FINISH

STOCK: CARBON-FIBER COMPOSITE; KRYPTER ALTITUDE CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN

BARREL: CARBON-FIBER-WRAPPED STAINLESS-STEEL; SIX-GROOVE, 1:8" RH-TWIST RIFLING, 5/8x24 TPI MUZZLE

MAGAZINE: FOUR-ROUND INTERNAL; HINGED FLOORPLATE

TRIGGER: HACT, TWO-STAGE; 3-LB., 8-OZ. PULL

SIGHTS: NONE; DRILLED-AND-TAPPED RECEIVER

WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 8 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, THREAD PROTECTOR

MSRP: \$1,639



The hand-laid carbon-fiber stock is supplied by Stocky's and features a carbon version of the company's Accublock bedding system.

which put it in the short-action category. During our initial inspection, testers were pleased with the fluidity of the bolt manipulation, citing an effortless lift despite its cock-on-opening operation. The three-position safety located on the right side of the receiver allowed cycling in either the forward or central position, but the most rearward setting locked the bolt. Located on the other side of the receiver is a push-button bolt release that allows removal without needing to depress the trigger. A third and final control, which drops the floorplate when pressed rearward, is incorporated into the front of the spacious trigger guard.

Before our accuracy and function testing, we affixed a Tract 2.5-15X 44 mm Toric Ultra HD hunting scope directly to the receiver via a pair of combination rings/bases from Talley. We chose this optic for the outstanding clarity that it garners from German Schott glass and an ample magnification range that suits close-range hunting and long-range engagements alike. Our range day consisted of hot, muggy conditions that were

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

6.5 MM CREEDMOOR CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 10' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL GMM 130-GRAIN BERGER OTM	2,702 Avg. 41 Sd	2,107	1.11	2.27	1.42
FEDERAL TROPHY COPPER 120-GRAIN TROPHY COPPER	2,854 Avg. 18 Sd	2,170	0.98	1.97	1.41
REMINGTON PM 140-GRAIN OTM	2,605 Avg. 38 Sd	2,109	0.87	1.35	1.17
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.33

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS. TEMPERATURE: 82° F. HUMIDITY 65%. ABBREVIATIONS: GMM (GOLD MEDAL MATCH), OTM (OPEN TIP MATCH), PM (PREMIER MATCH), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).

sure to put the heat-dissipation claim of Howa's barrel to the test.

We started by confirming the sub-m.o.a. guarantee that all M1500 rifles carry and found that we could meet it with two of our three types of ammunition. Although this guarantee is only based on a three-shot group, we were able to meet it with some five-shot groups as well. Throughout the test, the barrel did indeed heat up in between groups, but we found that it cooled quickly, especially considering the warm conditions.

All testers agreed that the recoil was incredibly manageable for such a light rifle, even without a muzzle device attached. We ended our test by shooting in conventional field positions to get an idea of the rifle's balance. Here is where we most appreciated the carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel,

as it reduced the muzzle weight and moved the balance point closer to the receiver. Landing hits on 12" gongs at 100 and 200 yards was effortless, in part due to the two-stage HACT trigger; its light pull weight of 3 lbs., 8 ozs., allowed us to break a shot without disturbing our unsupported sight picture.

The Carbon Elevate proved to be another excellent addition to Howa's already-established M1500 line. This firearm is light enough to carry on a long expedition, and its ergonomics made the rifle a joy to shoot. Given its intended use as a backwoods gun, we appreciated its accuracy and simple design. Hunters looking for an easy-to-carry, easy-to-shoot rifle that won't let them down will find the Howa Carbon Elevate to be a strong contender for their attention. 

The two-lug bolt incorporates an M16-style extractor and a plunger ejector.



The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.



Taurus Raging Hunter 10" 460

In 2019, Taurus Intl. Mfg. Inc. introduced a successful series of big-bore double-action revolvers dubbed the Raging Hunters (RH). Initially chambered in .357 Mag. and .44 Mag., that evolution of the Raging Bull line garnered a coveted NRA Publications' Golden Bullseye Award for Handgun Of The Year from *American Hunter*, and the series has since grown to include variants chambered in .454 Casull, .460 S&W Mag. and .500 S&W Mag. At SHOT Show 2023, the company announced the arrival of the subject of this review, a new version of the Raging Hunter chambered in .460 S&W Mag. that is outfitted with a 10"-long compensated barrel.

Like other members of the Raging Hunter series, the 10"-barreled version is a double-action/single-action revolver purpose-built as a hunting handgun. Manufactured in Brazil by *Taurus Armas*, this model's frame has been enlarged to house an unfluted cylinder measuring 2.35" in length to accommodate .460 S&W cartridges. The cylinder's capacity has been reduced from six to five rounds in order to safely manage this cartridge's impressively high pressure levels (65,000 p.s.i. max).

The revolver ships with an enhanced fiber-optic sighting system. The pinned front sight is fitted with an orange light pipe, while the fully adjustable, square-notch rear sight has two round dots illuminated by green light pipes. A 5.125"-long barrel shroud is machined from 7075-T6 aluminum and treated with a matte-black hard-anodized finish. The top of this shroud features an integral 4.75"-long, 11-slot Picatinny optics rail. This allows for the mounting of either magnified handgun scopes or red-dot optics closer to the bore axis without any additional modifications to the gun. A removable 2.5", six-slot Picatinny rail is also mounted to the shroud's underlug to support folding bipods, lights or other accessories. A deep cutout in the underlug serves to house and protect the ejector rod.

This dual-tone model has a frame made of satin-finished 410 stainless steel. The cylinder is a matte-black carbon-steel alloy finished to match the barrel shroud. The portion of the 10" stainless-steel barrel visible past the front end of the shroud is polished and fluted for added rigidity. The muzzle is fitted with a compensator with six top-side ports positioned to reduce muzzle rise and

eight angled side ports to mitigate felt recoil. This device successfully reduces the impressive felt recoil generated by .460 S&W Mag. ammunition to levels comparable to a large-frame .44 Mag. revolver loaded with full-power ammunition.

A checkered spur facilitates cocking the Raging Hunter's hammer for single-action fire. A somewhat trapezoidal trigger guard houses a smooth-faced steel trigger. The smooth double-action trigger pull weighed in at 11 lbs., 14 ozs., using a Wheeler Engineering digital trigger gauge. Cocking the hammer for single-action fire significantly reduced the trigger's arc of travel for a crisp break at 4 lbs., 5 ozs., of pressure. An unusual but effective design feature of the RH series is the inclusion of two cylinder releases. A Dan Wesson-style press-down release is located atop the cylinder yoke to provide positive cylinder lockup. The other release is situated on the left side of the frame behind the cylinder; this wedge-shaped slider is pressed



An included, detachable muzzle brake (l.) re-directs the Raging Hunter's recoil, whether shooting (l. to r.) .45 Colt, .454 Casull or .460 S&W Mag. cartridges.





The Raging Hunter has a removable Picatinny rail section that mounts to the underside of its barrel shroud, allowing for the attachment of accessories such as the Atlas bipod shown here.

forward, toward the muzzle, in traditional Smith & Wesson fashion. Both release buttons must be disengaged simultaneously in order to open the cylinder. The hand-filling soft rubber grip features finger grooves, lightly textured side panels and a recoil-absorbing strap along the back edge.

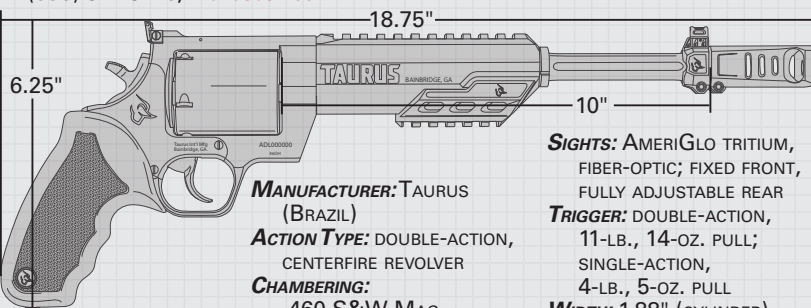
Unloaded, the 10" RH weighs in at 74 ozs. Although its weight works in favor of managing felt recoil, it does make this revolver a handful when shooting from a standing position. Using the accessory rail to mount an adjustable bipod is a useful option for prone or bench-rested shooting. The gun proved to be utterly reliable throughout the course of testing, without any mechanical- or ammunition-related issues. This included the muzzle device, which was still locked firmly in place without any signs of loosening following the range tests.

Formal accuracy testing was conducted at 25 yards using a Swampfox Liberator II red-dot with a 2-m.o.a. reticle using the optic's provided low-profile mount. The barrel's compensator delivered on the manufacturer's promise of significantly reduced felt recoil; this long-barrel model was fired side-by-side with the ported 5.12"-barreled version using the same .460 S&W ammunition—the reduction in recoil was easily 30 percent, if not more. Although felt recoil is subjective to some degree, this compensator



TAURUS RAGING HUNTER 10" 460

IMPORTER: TAURUS INTL. MFG. INC. (DEPT. AR), 100 TAURUS WAY, BAINBRIDGE, GA 39817; (800) 327-3776; TAURUSUSA.COM



MANUFACTURER: TAURUS (BRAZIL)

ACTION TYPE: DOUBLE-ACTION, CENTERFIRE REVOLVER

CHAMBERING:

.460 S&W MAG.

FRAME: 410 STAINLESS STEEL

RIFLING: FIVE-GROOVE, 1:20" RH TWIST

CYLINDER CAPACITY: FIVE

SIGHTS: AMERIGLO TRITIUM, FIBER-OPTIC; FIXED FRONT, FULLY ADJUSTABLE REAR

TRIGGER: DOUBLE-ACTION, 11-LB., 14-OZ. PULL; SINGLE-ACTION, 4-LB., 5-OZ. PULL

WIDTH: 1.88" (CYLINDER)

WEIGHT: 74 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK

MSRP: \$1,269

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

.460 S&W MAG. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ MUZ. (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL PREMIUM 300-GRAIN SWIFT A-FRAME	1,812 Avg. 18 Sd	2,187	2.41	2.85	2.66
HORNADY CUSTOM 200-GRAIN FTX	2,454 Avg. 17 Sd	2,674	2.67	2.98	2.81
UNDERWOOD 220-GRAIN XH	2,082 Avg. 29 Sd	2,117	2.52	2.99	2.76
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.74

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A LABRADAR CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 43° F. HUMIDITY: 23%. ABBREVIATIONS: FTX (FLEX TIP EXPANDING), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION), XH (XTREME HUNTER).

works to make the performance of the .460 S&W Mag. cartridge accessible to those who might not otherwise be able to tolerate its substantial kick—and, of course, like other .460s, the revolver can safely chamber and fire less-punishing .45 Colt and .454 Casull cartridges.

It's not uncommon for handguns to generate lower muzzle velocities than those printed on ammunition boxes, as listed velocities are often produced under laboratory conditions using longer-than-typical barrel lengths, and a revolver's cylinder gap also contributes to some degree of pressure loss. With this in mind, it's worth noting that all three loads shot through the 10"-barreled RH chronographed as faster than listed on their boxes. The Federal and Underwood loads gained 62 f.p.s. and 82 f.p.s., respectively—however, the relatively light 200-grain

Hornady bullet picked up an incredible 254 f.p.s. when launched from the 10" barrel.

The Taurus Raging Hunter 10" 460 successfully harnesses the performance potential of the high-pressure .460 S&W Mag. cartridge while effectively curbing its daunting felt recoil. It's appropriately over-built for the ammunition it fires with clean fitting and finish throughout, and features that can sometimes shake loose on magnum-power revolvers—including the compensator, fiber-optic sights and grip—proved to be properly fitted and sturdy enough for this platform. The rails incorporated into the barrel shroud make the revolver compatible with a diverse selection of optics and accessories, and while the accuracy demonstrated during testing was not superb, it would be adequate for the close-range hunting of big game. 🦋

The revolver's five-shot, non-fluted cylinder locks into the frame in two places. Releasing it requires the button on the crane to be pressed downward while the cylinder release aft of the recoil shield is simultaneously pressed forward.

Accufire Incendis

While thermal imaging is a handy feature to have on your everyday rifle, it often comes at the cost of abandoning your daytime optic. As conventional daytime optics offer better clarity and usually have a greater magnification range, most shooters aren't willing to make that sacrifice and opt to leave this game-changing technology on the shelf. The best solution to this problem has always been the employment of a "clip-on" thermal that mounts in front of your optic of choice, but alas, this can be a costly path to travel down. Texas-based Accufire is in tune with this issue and, through enormous research and development, has come up with the Incendis, a thermal device that can be used as either a clip-on or as a standalone optic, at a price that is pretty reasonable within the world of heat-detection technology.

Like other optics of this type, the Incendis collects heat information through its forward lens and then sends it through a series of computations that create an image on a small viewfinder located inside its aluminum housing. The user views this image in the same fashion he or she would peer through a conventional scope. Once powered up using the included rechargeable batteries, the unit can function as a handheld spotter, a standalone riflescope or it can be mounted in front of just about any conventional scope.

All of the unit's settings are managed via a trio of top-mounted buttons (below). Four CR123 batteries come with the optic (r.).

Using the included QD mount, we clipped the Incendis to a Primary Weapons System .223 Rem. upper receiver for use as a standalone unit. With Federal's 69-grain Gold Medal Match ammunition, we were able to zero off of a one-hole, three-shot group by holding the reticle over the original point of aim and moving a cursor to the point of impact. This process "teaches" the Incendis the difference between the POA and POI, and the optic then corrects for it. Zeroing is performed this way because the Incendis does not have conventional turrets, instead handling all adjustments via three buttons located atop the unit. We checked to ensure that the rifle retained its zero after removing the batteries, which often plagues devices of this nature, and it did. We then moved on to using it in tandem with a 6-24X Riton X1 Conquer scope.

Using the instructions from the downloadable manual, we aligned the reticle before turning it off to declutter our field of view. We checked our zero using the Conquer's reticle and found just a slight shift, measuring 1 m.o.a. up and 1 m.o.a. left. The scope's mounting style and even hardware tension could very well influence this relationship, however, as the difference was well within the product's intended use, we felt no need to experiment further. We next engaged targets out to 200 yards and were impressed that we were able



The 60-Hz Incendis has four heat-display options: white hot (shown), black hot, green hot and red accent.

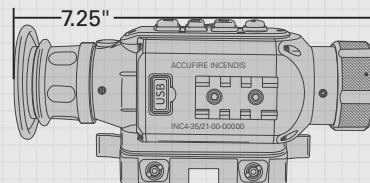
to see the warm bullets impact both steel and dirt at that distance.

After our live-fire exercise, we unmounted the Incendis and used it as a handheld viewer. All testers found the 60-Hz refresh rate to be more than adequate for rapid scanning of a large environment and only experienced minimal lag. Using it in this fashion, we found that we could detect a human being from distances of 500 yards and could begin to see bare flesh register on the red hot-tracking system at distances inside 260 yards.

Accufire markets the Incendis as, "The only thermal you need," and after spending a night on the range with it, we can see that point. Whether used as a handheld spotter, mounted atop your rifle alone or in tandem with a traditional scope, the system offers a versatile thermal-observation device at a relatively reasonable price. 

ACCUFIRE INCENDIS

MANUFACTURER: ACCUFIRE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
(DEPT. AR), 1225 W. COLLEGE AVE.,
SUITE 610, CARROLLTON, TX 75006;
(833) 437-2673; ACCUFIRETECH.COM



DIGITAL ZOOM: 1X, 2X OR 4X
FIELD OF VIEW @ 100 YARDS: 56' (1X)
TO 14' (4X)
EYE RELIEF: 2.75"
DISPLAY RESOLUTION: 1024x768 PIXELS
FRAME RATE: 60 Hz
BATTERY TYPE: FOUR CR123, FOUR
ICR16340 OR 5V EXTERNAL PACK
WEIGHT: 26.7 ozs.
ACCESSORIES: CARRYING BAG, USB-C
CABLE W/VIDEO OUT, USB CHARGING
CABLE, LENS CLOTH, FOUR RECHARGE-
ABLE ICR16340 BATTERIES, EYEPIECE,
LENS CAP

MSRP: \$3,149





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HANDLOADS

A Just-Right .41 Mag.

The .41 Remington Magnum perseveres, despite being pinched between the .357 and .44 magnums. Versatility is the reason. On the mild side, the .41 Mag. shooting 210-grain cast bullets at a leisurely 850 f.p.s. is as easy to handle as a handshake. But, at the extreme end, the .41 generates about all the recoil most of us can manage firing full-measure loads with 210- or 220-grain jacketed bullets.

The standard jacketed bullet for the .41 weighs 210 grains, and Hornady, Nosler, Sierra and Speer each manufacture a bullet of that weight. A hollow cavity in the nose of the bullets initiates expansion. The Speer DeepCurl's jacket is electroplated to its lead-alloy core with petals formed in the nose to control expansion.

Lots of propellants work well in the .41. *The Speer Handloading Manual Number 15* lists 13 propellants loaded with DeepCurl bullets; Alliant Power Pro 300-MP and Winchester 296 developed the highest velocities. The recipe shown here lists 21.0 grains of IMR 4227, which was only about 100 f.p.s. slower than the 296 propellant fired through an Old Model Ruger Blackhawk's 6.5" barrel. Speer used CCI 300 standard large pistol primers to ignite IMR 4227; I used Winchester large pistol primers, and they produced a standard deviation of 33 f.p.s. over 15 shots.

Accuracy of the DeepCurl bullets was good, with five, five-shot groups averaging 1.20" at 25 yards—and that was from the Blackhawk's well-worn barrel that has fired thousands upon thousands of rounds over the past 50 years. Recoil of the recipe load was quite acceptable; the Blackhawk's plow-handle grip eased felt recoil by directing the revolver upward instead of straight back into the web of the hand. Certainly the .41 Magnum's kick was stiffer than a .357's, but much milder than a .44 Mag.

—JOHN HAVILAND, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

BULLET: 0.410",
210-GRAIN
SPEER DEEPCURL
PROPELLANT: IMR 4227
CHARGE: 21.0 GRAINS
PRIMER: WINCHESTER LARGE PISTOL
CASE: WINCHESTER
CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 1.280"
CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 1.580"
VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.): 1,180*
MUZZLE ENERGY (FT.-LBS.): 649
ACCURACY: 1.20"***
USES: BIG-GAME HUNTING
NOTES: LOADS FIRED FROM A RUGER
BLACKHAWK WITH A 6.5" BARREL
AND 1:20"-TWIST RIFLING.
* AVERAGE OF 15 SHOTS.
** AVERAGE OF FIVE, FIVE-SHOT
GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.
TEMPERATURE: 80° F

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based upon the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training, procedures, techniques and safety precautions that are absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. READ THE NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER ON THE CONTENTS PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE. ALWAYS CONSULT COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE MANUALS AND BULLETINS OF PROPER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES, TECHNIQUES AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.



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AMERICA'S SECRET WAR ON CASH

How Banks and a Power-Hungry Government Want to Confiscate Your Cash, Steal Your Liberty, and Track Every Dollar You Spend

If you like paying for things with cash, enjoy the feeling of having some money in your pocket, or even have some cash tucked away in your house for a rainy day, then consider yourself warned.

You've got a big target on your back.

Big Brother and your neighborhood bank are all aiming to stop you from using cash.

Consider this:

- **The IRS has seized bank accounts of people that have done nothing wrong except make regular cash deposits of less than \$10k in their accounts**
- **Banks in cooperation with the feds are spying on you and can file a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) on anyone who may regularly deposit cash.**
- **Legitimate businesses and their employees are being cut off from the banking system because their customers usually pay in cash.**
- **JP Morgan Chase adopted policies preventing you from keeping cash in your safe deposit box . . . or even paying your credit card bill with cash.**
- **Law enforcement officers are seizing cash from anyone they think is carrying too much . . . even just a few hundred bucks.**

That's right, if you have just a few hundred bucks on you, you can immediately be suspected of being a drug dealer or a terrorist. No drugs

or bombs need be in your possession. The cash is all the evidence they need . . . and good luck getting it back.

That's why ***The War on Cash***, is a must read for all Americans.

This amazing book blows the cover off the intimidating tactics being used by governments and their allies to restrict the public's use of cash, and to abuse the laws for their own purposes.

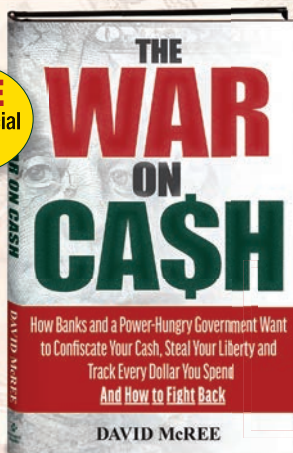
Inside this bombshell book you'll discover how:

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- **Foreign governments have already taken outrageous steps to force their citizens to abandon the use of cash — and how these steps serve as a ready-made blueprint for the United States**
- **The perfectly legal type of bank deposit that can lead to your bank account being seized instantly**
- **How a hard-working, honest businesswoman found herself reported to the federal government by her bank for "structuring"**

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LATEST
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NEWS FROM
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ACTION

Many States Wrapping Up Legislative Sessions For The Year

As we go to print for this issue, many states have ended, or are ending, their legislative sessions for 2023. We've already reported on a number of big wins for the Second Amendment this year, like Florida and Nebraska becoming the 26th and 27th states, respectively, to recognize the right to carry a firearm for personal protection without first seeking government permission. While we don't have the space to cover what has happened in every state legislature, here is what has happened in a few of them. If you are interested in learning about other states, please go to [NRA-ILA.org](https://nra-ila.org). You can use our NRA-ILA News filter to find information on the states that interest you.

ALASKA

Alaska's session ended May 17, with the legislature having passed HB 61, which protects Second Amendment rights during times of turmoil. It prohibits state and local government entities from closing lawful firearm businesses or restricting an individual's access to firearms, ammunition, and component parts during declared states of emergency, unless such closures and limitations apply to all forms of commerce equally. Lawmakers also rejected efforts

to enact a "red-flag" law that would allow unconstitutional gun seizures without due process and a bill that sought to impose a one-size-fits-all firearm-storage mandate.

NEVADA

The Nevada legislature adjourned June 5, and while anti-gun majorities passed several attacks on the Second Amendment, pro-gun Gov. Joe Lombardo (R) vetoed them all. Lombardo rejected legislation that sought to expand restrictions on where law-abiding carry-permit holders could take firearms needed for self-defense, a bill that would have discriminated against adults 18-20 years old by prohibiting them from possessing semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, and an attempt to expand the list of people prohibited under Nevada law from lawfully acquiring firearms—an expansion that sought to go beyond federal law.

OKLAHOMA

In Oklahoma, the legislature adjourned May 26, and lawmakers passed pro-gun reforms during the session. SB 978 expanded lawful concealed carry—both with a permit and under constitutional carry—to no longer prohibit the right to carry a firearm on a boat.

NRA-ILA

ILA Grassroots:

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NRA-ILA website: nra-ila.org

HB 1789 was also passed; it clarifies language in the existing constitutional carry law and ensures that law-abiding citizens can carry a firearm without unnecessary government permission slips. Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) signed both bills into law.

In addition, at the end of the budget process, the legislature made a considerable investment in enhancing school security. This funding will go toward implementing effective safety protocols, improving infrastructure and providing necessary resources to promote a secure learning environment for our future generations. Lawmakers also committed \$10 million to the NRA-affiliated Gunsmithing Technology Degree Program at Murray State College. Through a longstanding partnership between Murray State College and the National Rifle Association, this program has been providing gunsmithing and law-enforcement-armorer training programs since 1994. It stands as one of the four NRA-endorsed gunsmithing schools in the nation, and the school now offers the only Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in Gunsmithing Technology.

At press time, Gov. Stitt anticipated he will sign these budget provisions into law.

TEXAS

The Lone Star State saw three pro-gun bills become law this session. HB 2837 prevents financial institutions and their agents from requiring the use of a firearms-specific merchant category code (MCC) to distinguish purchases at a Texas firearms retailer, rather than using a general merchandise retailer code or a sporting-goods retailer code. It protects the privacy rights of lawful purchasers of firearms or ammunition by prohibiting the misuse of payment card processing systems to surveil, report or disclose these legal transactions.

HB 1760 prevents roving "gun-free" zones created when school activities take place off-campus. Without this important change, the "school activities" provision in Penal Code Section 46.03 can be misapplied to include any place students are ever present or anywhere "educational activities" are taking place off campus.

HB 3137 restricts municipalities or counties under the state firearms preemption law from requiring firearm owners to obtain liability insurance.

Gov. Greg Abbott (R) had signed HB 1760 as we went to press, and we anticipate he will have signed the other bills by the time you read this article.

In addition to the passage of these pro-gun reforms, the Texas legislature also rejected a record number of anti-gun bills filed by lawmakers who have no respect for the Second Amendment. Anti-gun extremists even tried to pass anti-gun measures during a special session intended to address property tax relief and human-smuggling issues—brazenly attempting to exploit an unrelated, high-profile violent crime to further their agenda—but failed to get a full vote in the House on their NRA-opposed legislation.

NRA thanks the governors and pro-Second Amendment lawmakers supporting our right to keep and bear arms. 

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

May 1 - 31, 2023

Fred W. Bogatay (from: Ronald & Shirley Blanken); **Stuart B. Peterson**, Chasburg, WI (from: Michael & Lori Roach); **John Whitmer** (from: Elkhorn Valley Rifle Club); **Bob Ribbeck** (from: Springwater Rod & Gun Club); **Donald A. Gadd**, Middleboro, MA (from: William Keach); **Thomas G. Hupp**, Uvalde, TX (from: Uvalde Gun Club); Cheri Mincel (from: Hamburg Rod & Gun Club).

Lucas Hoge is NRA COUNTRY

Photo courtesy Lucas Hoge



Lucas Hoge grew up in the very small town of Hubbell, Neb. He started playing guitar when he was 12 and eventually became the lead singer for both a country and rock band and a Christian music group. The local residents of Hubbell raised money to help let him move to the bright lights of Music City. He released his first CD in 2002 and his song "If Only I Could" was featured on the hit show "Smallville" in 2006. Even as his career has grown, he honors his faith, family and love of freedom performing for American Troops in the Middle East, on the Armed Forces Entertainment Wrangler NATIONAL Patriot Tour and as the official spokesperson for the non-profit Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet. Lucas displays his love of the outdoors in his show "Hoge Wild" on the Sportsman Channel. To check out more, go to lucashoge.com and follow him on all social-media platforms! NRA Country's Lisa Supernaugh got a chance to speak with Lucas and ask him a few questions.

LS: A lot of our NRA Country artists started young. What sparked your interest?

LH: I started out playing the drums about 7 years old, then quickly started learning to play piano and singing. I started playing guitar at about 12 or so. What sparked my interest was my mom and dad. My dad was in a few bands in his day, and they were always singing in the car wherever we went.

LS: Who got you started in the outdoors?

LH: My dad and uncle got me into hunting upland bird before I could even carry a gun. I would go out with them hunting, and since I was too young to carry a shotgun, they let me carry my BB gun!

LS: Do you prefer rifle or bow hunting? Favorite rifle or bow?

LH: I truly love them both in very different ways. I really don't have a favorite rifle or bow per se, but I still love the old 54-caliber black-powder rifle I got to make in a high school shop class.

LS: You have been so generous with your time for our troops overseas; how does that make you feel?

LH: I love getting to hear about their lives and what they are doing for our country. Being able to say thank you to our troops downrange is something I will hold dear forever.

LS: If you had one piece of advice about the preservation of our hunting and fishing heritage, what would it be?

LH: Take someone out who has never been or maybe has an interest, but no one has ever reached out to help them. It really doesn't take much to introduce people to it because once you do, I guarantee they will be hooked ... pun intended!

LS: What's next for you, Lucas?

LH: I'm currently writing and working on a new series of songs and filming for Season 4 of "Hoge Wild." I started a songwriter festival in Belize that kicked off last May, and there'll be much more touring for 2023 and 2024.

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information, visit nracountry.com, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram.

NRA® Online Regional Report

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Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



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le.nra.org

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals.

To become an NRA Recruiter, contact NRA Recruiting Programs at recruiter@nrahq.org.



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459.



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The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting nrainstructors.org, or online training is available at nraonlinetraining.org.

Questions? Email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.



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stateassociations.nra.org

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MAY 17-19, 2024

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By Joseph P.
DeBergalis, Jr.
Executive Director,
General Operations



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Indiana First Lady Janet Holcomb with NRA High Power Rifle shooting legend and High Power Match Director, Middleton Tompkins.

Volunteers: The Backbone Of The NRA

Throughout our Association's history, the tireless efforts of volunteers over the years have aided the National Rifle Association of America in becoming the oldest, most-effective civil-rights organization in the world. Together with our more than five million members, we're proud defenders of history's patriots and diligent protectors of the Second Amendment.

From competitive shooting and our educational and training programs to the Eddie Eagle GunSafe program, women's and youth programs, all the way up to the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, the Great American Outdoor Show and the NRA National Matches at Camp Atterbury, our volunteers form a critical pillar in the fight to protect the Second Amendment. They travel from all over—from California to Vermont and all points in between, and their efforts propel NRA events and programs far above any alternatives.

What's even more amazing is seeing firsthand how the shared love of the Second Amendment can bring people together to volunteer. For example, this past April in Indianapolis, we had teenagers, housewives in their 50s, men in their 70s and beyond, students, plumbers, carpenters, doctors, factory workers, a retired colonel, and police officers—name an occupational group and you could find a representative at the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits. These conscientious men and women with their willing hands were hanging banners, punching computer keyboards and providing support at many different events. All those hardworking volunteers make the entire experience better for everyone involved.

More great examples of hardworking volunteers can be found among the competition staff at the NRA National Matches at Camp Atterbury. Middleton "Mid" Tompkins, one of the greatest High Power Rifle



Photos by John Parker

Longtime NRA Smallbore Rifle supporter Paul Benneche scoring targets after the Pershing Trophy Match conducted during the Prone Nationals.

shooters of all time and now in his eighties, still maintains a grand presence at the range as match director for the NRA High Power and Smallbore Rifle Championships. Another longtime NRA competitive shooting volunteer and referee, Kenn Boyd, has been the Precision Pistol Championship match director since 2021 and is key to its smooth operation.

As America's longest-standing civil rights organization, the NRA is dedicated to protecting the Second Amendment and your rights as American citizens that are enshrined in the Constitution. I encourage all of you to get involved in supporting the NRA in your community. By doing so, we can work together to ensure the future of the shooting sports, hunting, self-defense and our cherished way of life. Learn how to become an NRA volunteer at home.nra.org/volunteer.



2022 Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year

Deputy Mark Johns of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office has been selected as the 2022 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for demonstrating extraordinary valor in the line of duty while facing an armed suspect. Despite being critically wounded in a gunfire exchange, he continued to return fire, defending himself and fellow officers. Deputy Johns' actions that day are in line with the highest standards of law enforcement.

Since 1993, NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award has recognized exceptional acts of service by law enforcement officers. The NRA Law Enforcement Division administers the program. Additionally, Smith & Wesson, a longtime supplier of police firearms, supports the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by providing an engraved firearm to the recipient.

Last August, Deputy Mark Johns and other deputies of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office were at a residence in their jurisdiction to serve a court order. Deputy Norton located the subject of the court order inside the front door, who then moved to the rear of the house, where Deputy Sergeant Swartz and Deputy Mark Johns were positioned.

While attempting to communicate with the subject through the backdoor, the suspect, without warning, began firing rifle rounds through the door, fatally striking Sergeant Swartz. The concealed gunman continued to move and fire, as Deputy Johns pulled Sergeant Swartz to a safer area to provide medical aid. Deputy Johns then relocated to a more defensible position to locate the suspect and inform other deputies where the suspect had moved to, simultaneously providing protection to Sergeant Swartz.

Deputy Mark Johns received his NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year plaque from NRA Board Member and 2015 Law Enforcement officer of the Year Mark Vaughn at the 2023 Board of Directors meeting in Indianapolis.

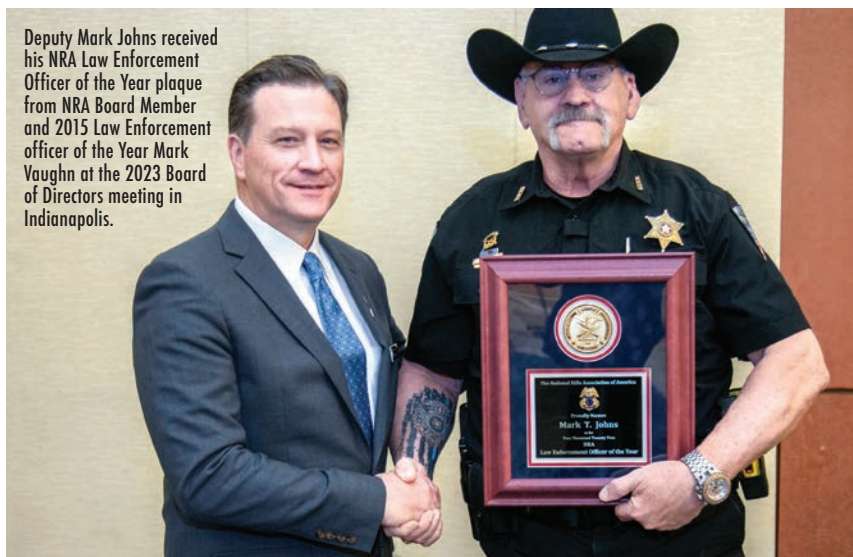


Photo by Peter Fountain

During this time, the shooter moved through the house and attempted to engage Deputy Norton, who was located at the front of the house. Next, the shooter exited the house and began to fire at Deputy Johns from another direction. During the gunfire exchange, Deputy Johns was struck and knocked down after a rifle round entered his thigh, damaging his femoral artery, sending shrapnel into his abdomen and winding up in his bladder. He was shot twice in total, both rounds hitting him in the upper groin area.

Deputy Johns continued to return fire as the gunman rushed back inside the home. The suspect suddenly exited the residence, jumped into a vehicle and hurried away while firing at the deputies and their vehicles. Oklahoma County deputies and Oklahoma City officers pursued until the suspect attempted to crash through the security gate at Tinker

Air Force Base and was subsequently taken into custody.

Despite sustaining significant injuries during the incident, Deputy Mark Johns continued to return fire to protect Sergeant Swartz, Deputy Norton and himself. His actions are a credit to his department, the community he serves and in keeping with the highest standards of law enforcement.

The National Rifle Association of America honored Deputy Mark Johns for his bravery in the line of duty at the 2023 Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Indianapolis, Ind., during a special presentation at the NRA Board of Directors meeting.

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and its Law Enforcement Division, go to awards.nra.org/awards/nra-officer-of-the-year-award, call (703) 267-1632 or email le@nrahq.org.

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Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:

(Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or nrabod@nrahq.org; or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership I.D. number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.

360 BUCKHAMMER

continued from p. 52

energy claims entirely intact. Turning my attention to consistency, the .30-30 Winchester's accuracy beat out the 360 Buckhammer's by about an inch on our 100-yard targets. That was to be expected, as it had a 128-year head start in the load-development department. On the other hand, there are two deer in my freezer that will testify that it doesn't amount to enough to matter.

Turning both guns loose on our 200-yard target revealed a fair variance in trajectory that I caution users to be aware of. As we saw an average drop of 11" on our 170-grain soft-point .30-30 Win., the 180-grain Buckhammer impacts only showed up 8" below our point of aim. Kudos to Remington for its work in determining that, as 8" is only 0.2" more than the claim. The groupings at this distance were exceptional, but it's important to understand that the two have a similar but not identical trajectory; if you are forced to take a tight shot, it pays to know the 360 Buckhammer's trajectory a little more intimately.

Dropping The Hammer

As I cleaned up my shooting point and headed home to make sense of all of this data, I pondered who else might be interested in this rifle/ammunition combination. Realistically, any hunter who likes shooting .30-30 Win. or found themselves tracking a deer shot with 350 Legend will want to give it a look. I bet this cartridge would make excellent hog medicine as well, as it hits harder than both previously mentioned. Stepping away, I contemplated what the future might hold for the 360 Buckhammer, as I'd be especially interested in seeing a heavier, subsonic load in a shorter rifle. Likewise, as it's a rimmed design, it could also be chambered in a revolver, making it exceptionally interesting to wheelgun hunters. I guess, when you look at it, the 360 Buckhammer represents one of the better paradoxes in the shooting industry. Since, for something intended for short range, it might have the broadest reach after all. 

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Colt "American Railway Express" Police Positive

GUN: COLT POLICE POSITIVE

(BACKSTRAP FACTORY-ROLLMARKED "AM. RY. EXP.")

CHAMBERING: .38 COLT NEW POLICE (.38 S&W)

SERIAL No.: 146XXX

MANUFACTURED: 1922

CONDITION: NRA GOOD (MODERN GUN STANDARDS)

VALUE: \$950 to \$1,150 (WITH FACTORY-VERIFIED EXPRESS
COMPANY PROVENANCE)



By the late 19th century, Colt had entered the growing trend toward double-action revolvers with two guns that nonetheless mimicked the general configuration and sidegate-loading system of the company's Single Action Army—the Model 1877 Lightning and the larger-framed Model 1878. But the company more fully embraced the modern double-action-revolver concept with its swing-out cylinder designs of the 1889 New Model Navy and the 1892 New Army and Navy (which featured mechanical and nomenclature upgrades through 1903). Both of these latest guns—unlike previous Colts—had counterclockwise cylinder rotation; Colt quickly switched back to clockwise rotation in 1893 with its New Pocket Model. In fact, taking a swipe at Smith & Wesson, whose cylinders rotated counterclockwise, Colt's ads boasted, "Colt Cylinders All Turn Right—To make certain that the cylinder is in perfect alignment with the barrel ..."

This spotlighting of its mechanical improvements continued with the introduction of the Colt Positive Lock in 1905. An early form of transfer-bar safety, it was patented by Colt engineer George H. Tansley in 1905 and effectively prevented

a double-action Colt from accidentally firing, should the gun be dropped. The Positive Lock eventually gave rise to one of Colt's most prolific double-action revolvers: the Police Positive.

Introduced in 1907, it was available in nickel or blue finishes and priced at \$14. Colt hard rubber stocks were standard until 1924, when checkered walnut took over. With initial barrel lengths of 4", 5" and 6", it was chambered in .32 Long/Short Colt, .32 Colt New Police (the same as .32 S&W Long), .38 Colt New Police (the same as .38 S&W) and .22 rimfire. Interestingly, Colt refrained from using S&W nomenclatures for its .32 and .38 chamberings, not wishing to promote the name of a competitor. And, of course, Colt catalogs had a call-out that stated the guns were equipped with the Colt Positive Safety Lock "... a solid bar of steel, 1/10 inch in thickness, rests directly between the hammer and the frame... except when the trigger is pulled."

Being promoted as "light, compact ... an ideal pocket or house arm," a 2½"-barreled version was later offered in .32 caliber. A slightly larger version,

the Police Positive Special, priced at \$15 and chambered in .32-20 and .38 Spl., was brought out in 1908. A Police Positive Target, featuring adjustable sights, was made from 1907 until 1941, and the Banker's Special, a Police Positive with a 2" barrel and chambered in .22 LR or .38 Colt New Police, was produced from 1926 until 1940.

More than 750,000 Police Positives, in all versions (including the Police Positive Special), were produced until production halted in 1995. Needless to say, the little gun was adopted throughout its early existence by numerous law-enforcement agencies. In addition, a great many guns were procured by various express companies, including Wells Fargo and American Railway Express.

This well-carried First Issue blued example with a 4" barrel was shipped on Nov. 28, 1922, as part of a two-gun shipment to H.C. Garner, who had recently been promoted as route agent at the American Railway Express Agency in Columbus, Ga. It is factory-rollmarked "Am. Ry. Exp." on the backstrap and no doubt guarded many a railroad shipment during the Roaring '20s. In its NRA Good condition, it is worth between \$950 and \$1,150. Without the express company provenance, as verified by Colt factory letter (coltarchives.com), it would be worth only \$275 to \$350.

—RICK HACKER, FIELD EDITOR

American Rifleman does NOT accept submissions for the I Have This Old Gun column. Topics are assigned to Field Editors in advance. Due to the volume of mail received, our writers are not able to answer individual questions. Please consider instead sending your correspondence and questions through our Dope Bag/Q&A service, which is available to all NRA members in good standing. Details appear in the Q&A section.



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