

FIREARMS NEWS[®]

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 2025

THE TISAS

PX-9

DUTY COMP PISTOL

**DURABILITY
AND SPEED!**
REVIEW BY JAMES TARR



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CZECHPOINT'S VZ. 58 RIFLE THE UN-AK RIFLE!

ROCK RIVER ARMS' .17 HMR ROCK CHUCK CARBINE

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CONCEALED**
CARRYING A
RELOAD

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COLT'S .44 MAGNUM ANACONDA REVOLVER



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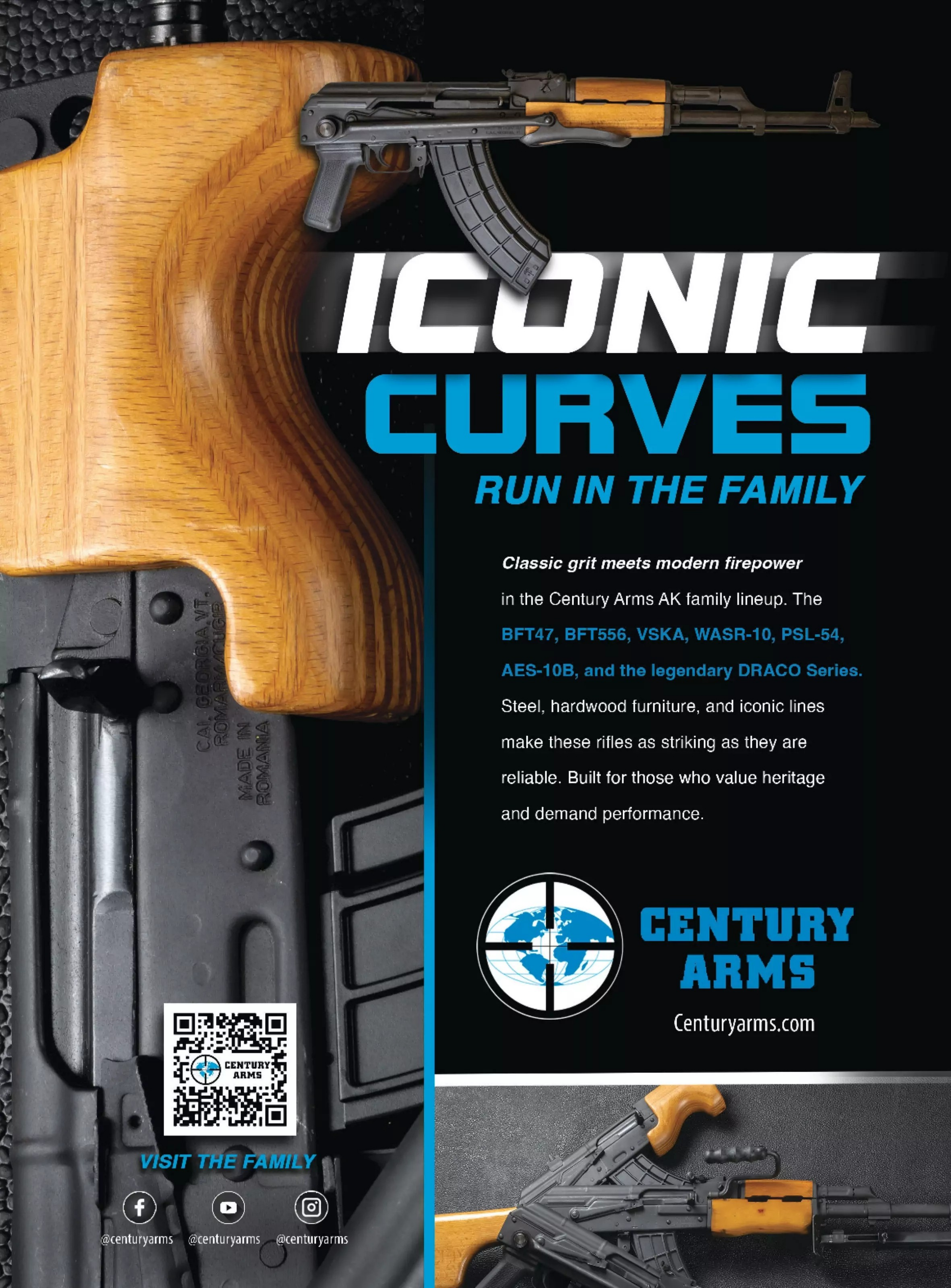
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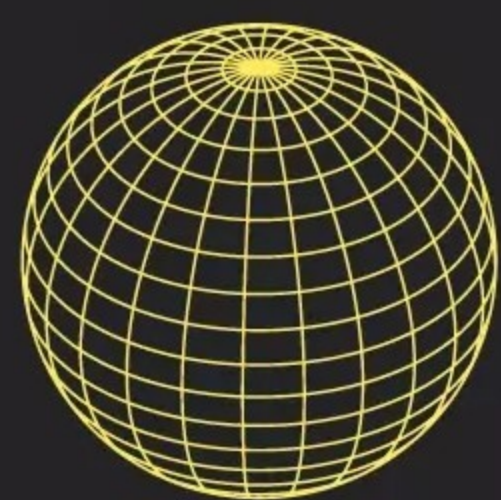


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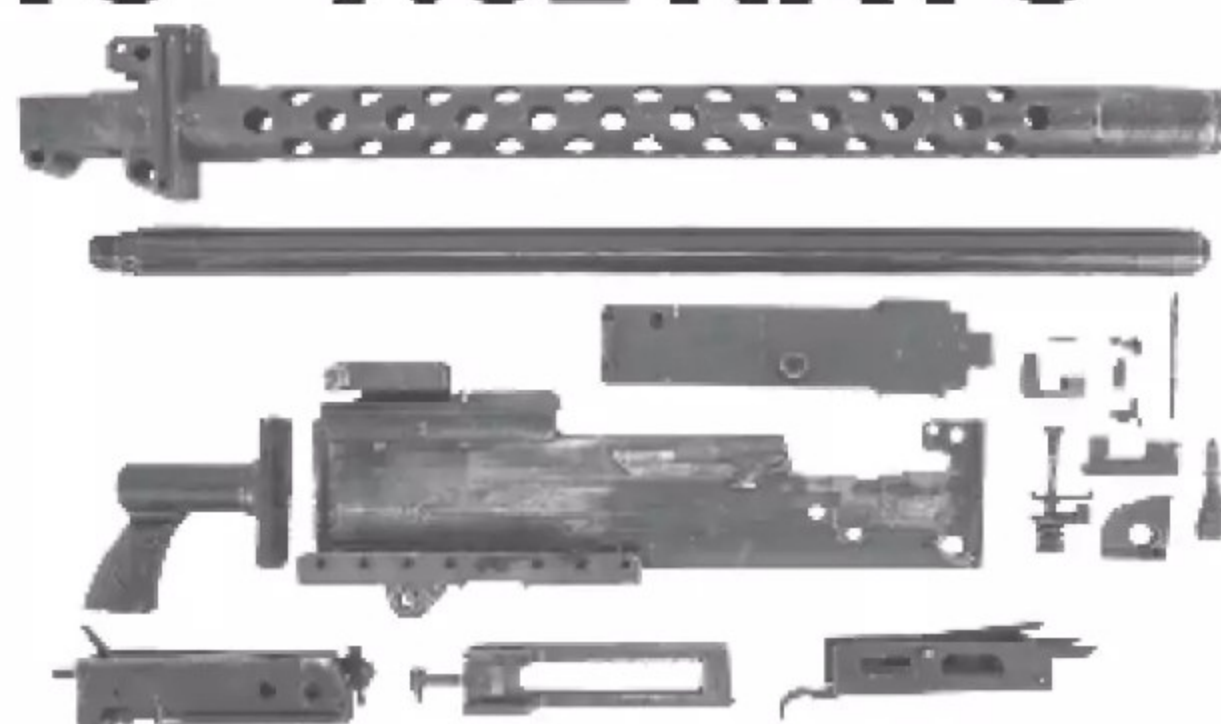
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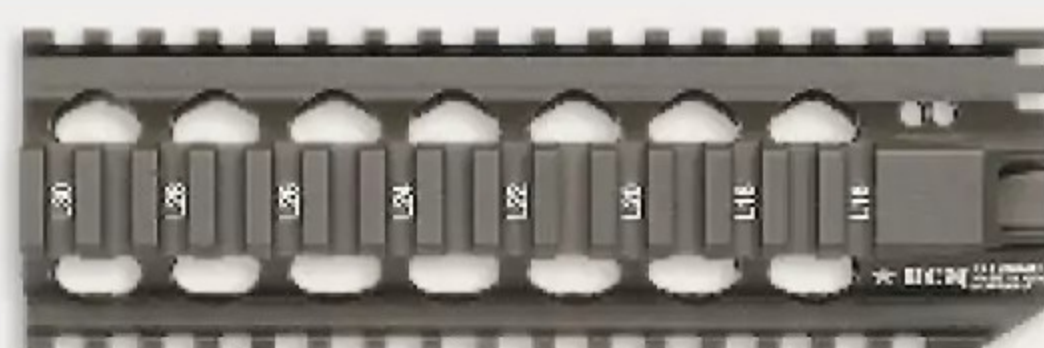
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OHIO COUNTY FAIR 'NO GUNS' SIGNS ARE UNACCEPTABLE INSULTS TO ARMED PATRONS

Although the Board of the Canfield Fair Were Forced by Law to Allow Carrying of Firearms in Open Areas, They Saturated “No Guns” Signs on Almost Every Building.

By David Codrea,
Gun Politics Field Editor

“As shootings erupt at Ohio county fairs, locals are powerless to ban guns,” *Signal* (“a network of independent, community-led, nonprofit news-rooms,” meaning left-leaning) bemoaned in mid-August. The piece was written after State Attorney General Dave Yost “published a formal opinion ruling that the boards that operate county fairs can’t ban guns on site.”

He was right, of course. Besides the clear “shall not be infringed” proscription of the Second Amendment, Ohio has preemption laws when it comes to guns, meaning the state claims jurisdiction over “gun laws” that political subdivisions (which most fairgrounds are), county, and municipality governments, must abide by. That disallows the unnavigable nightmare of a “patchwork quilt” of conflicting ordinances that would make it impossible for gun owners to travel through the state without running afoul of local edicts backed by armed enforcers.

To make its case that good citizens should be unarmed at fairs, *Signal* recounts a handful of instances where



The Canfield Fair (Mahoning County Fair), located outside of Youngstown, Ohio, is one of the oldest fairs in the U.S. and is the largest county fair in Ohio. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

juveniles and other criminals, who wouldn’t have obeyed a fair gun ban anyway, did stupid, violent stuff, and blamed that on Yost’s declaration. Allow that argument and the government could ban guns everywhere, in every town, which, of course, is what the prohibitionists have always been after. The anecdotes are just to gin up outrage among the uninformed and manipulable, that is, the marks of the citizen disarmament swindlers and shills.

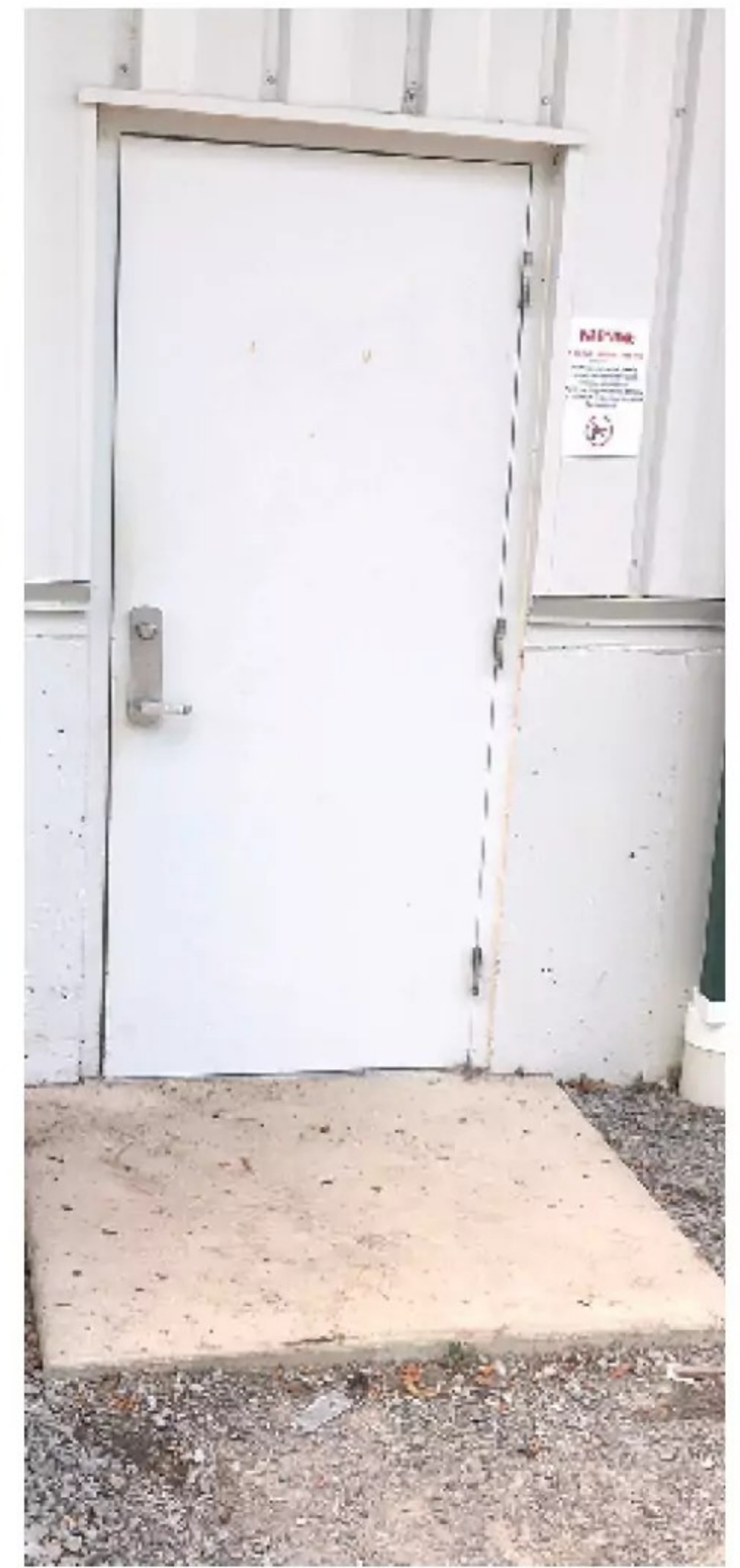
Firearms News addressed this issue a year ago in the article “Rural Fairs Banning Self-Defense with Guns,” recounting prohibitions in various states, and also recounting incidents where unarmed fair-goers and vendors had been assaulted and robbed at gunpoint. To repeat an obvious truism that no amount of anti-gun hysteria will ever address, only the “law-abiding” obey gun laws. And those who do place themselves and their loved ones at risk, because criminals don’t.



The saturation of “No Gun” signs throughout the Canfield Fair was unlike anything ever witnessed by the Editor-in-Chief of *Firearms News*. Every entrance on every building had them, except for some restrooms. (Vincent L. DeNiro)



Many times, there were “No Guns” signs on both sides of every entrance. (Vincent L. DeNiro)



Now, though, unable to impose a property-wide, phony “gun-free zone” in Ohio, disgruntled fair officials are determined to impose what they can by sticking to the letter, but not to the spirit and intent of the law. Per *Signal*, “At the Ohio State Fair this year, patrons entered through metal detectors. They can carry weapons

openly or concealed outdoors... but not in buildings on the fairgrounds.”

If they want to enter a building, they have to get a handstamp and go lock their gun up in their car, despite the fact that no less a source than the FBI says a gun is stolen from a car

every nine minutes in this country, and over half of such thefts are from vehicles. The fair patron then must remain unarmed until they make it back to their parked car.

Vincent L. DeNiro, Editor-in-Chief of *Firearms News* (established in

[Cont. to page 12]



Taking ridiculous anti-gun hysteria to new heights. This tool shed even sports a “No Gun” sign. (Vincent L. DeNiro)



Perimeter restrooms of the grandstand prohibited self-defense with firearms as well. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

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Pg.4



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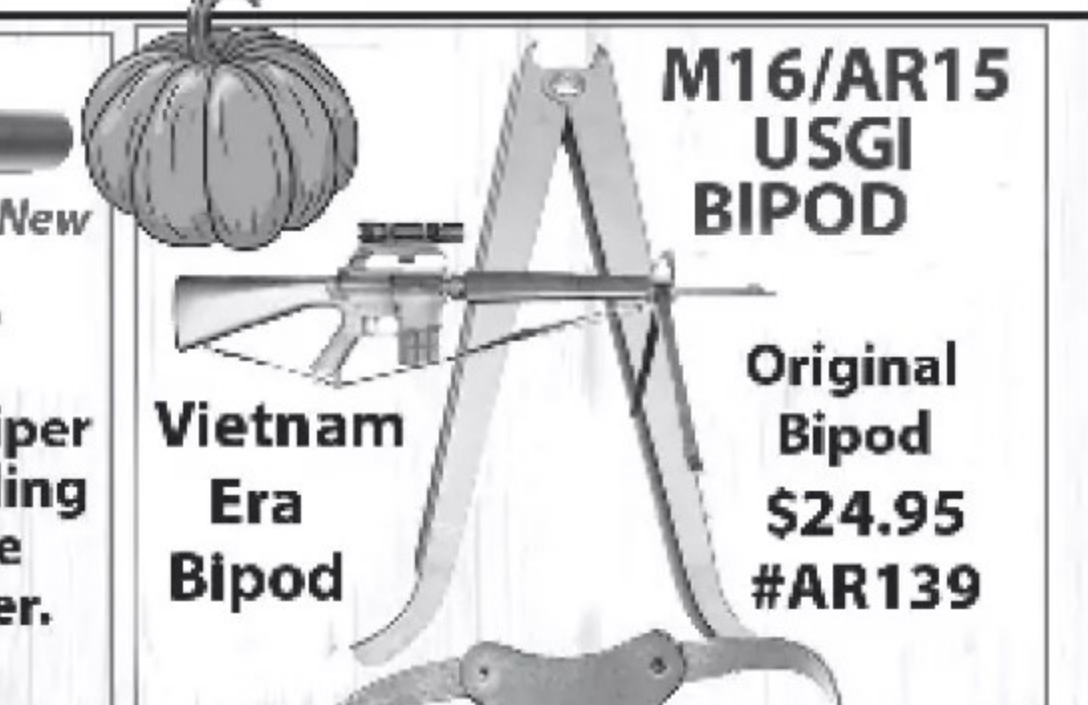
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New

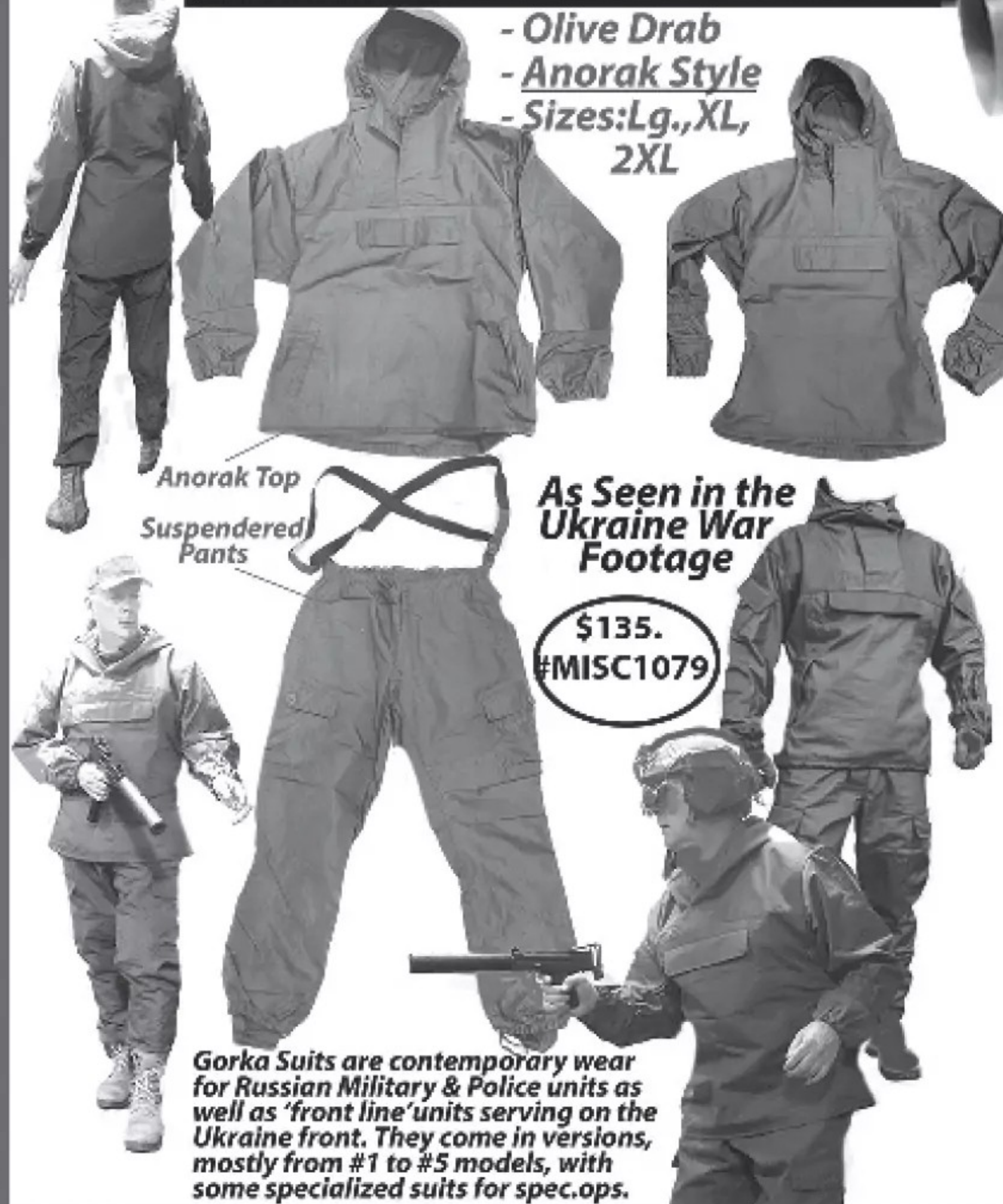
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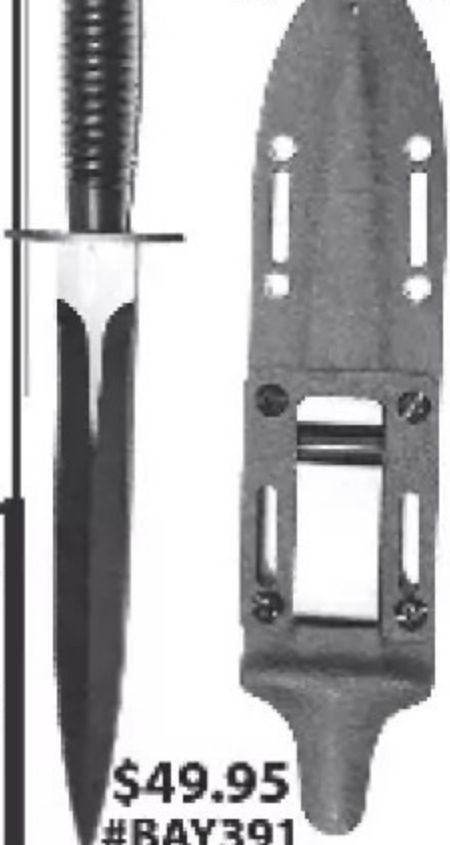
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Pg 2

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Our Sleekest Stiletto Knife. This is the V25 knife with scabbard & sports a 7" blade in 440C steel with overall length of 12". Scabbard is Kydex with a Belt Clip and can be worn in many ways.



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6-3/8" Blade 440C Steel

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This first aid station, which is usually open through the fair, clearly shows no entrance with a gun. Hopefully, someone legally exercising their 2A rights didn't have a serious health issue nearby. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

[Cont. from page 9]

1946 as *Shotgun News*), experienced this nonsense firsthand at the Canfield Fair (Mahoning County Fair, operated by the Mahoning County Agricultural Society) outside the city

of Youngstown (where he grew up), which is the largest county fair in Ohio. (The fair ran from August 27 through September 1.) No doubt the anti-gun fair board is none too happy



This fair vendor seems to get it. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

with being forced to allow concealed carry on the grounds, so they've redoubled sticking it to gunowners where they can.

"They went to the highest-level putting 'No Guns' signs on EVERY building entrance to everything—even tool sheds," DeNiro reports, including photos that he took on his visit (accompanying this article). "I've never seen a saturation of 'No Guns' signs like this."

That means if you want to see an indoors exhibit, you have to disarm. And not just exhibits. Necessities. "The restrooms at the grandstand have signs," DeNiro noted. However, some restrooms did not have the restrictive signs. Hopefully, fairgoers' bladders didn't act up near the grandstand. "No first aid for you!" he remarked about a "No Guns" sign on the building bearing a large Red Cross, which is usually open for injuries and other medical issues.

Seriously? At some point this becomes full-blown "In your face!" harassment by spiteful anti-gun bureaucrats taking their frustration out on a class of customers they don't approve of—those who claim their rights and make the fair a safer place by their presence.

The motto of the fair is "Something to crow about!" For good citizens who won't let usurpers lay claim to their birthright, it's more like something intolerable to object about, and something to put majority Republicans is state government on notice about.

David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for Firearms News, he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook. **FN**

[Cont. to page 14]



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JOHN MELVILLE MILLER

DECEMBER 4, 1942 — AUGUST 23, 2025

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL SMALL ARMS EXPERTS

By David Fortier, Executive Editor

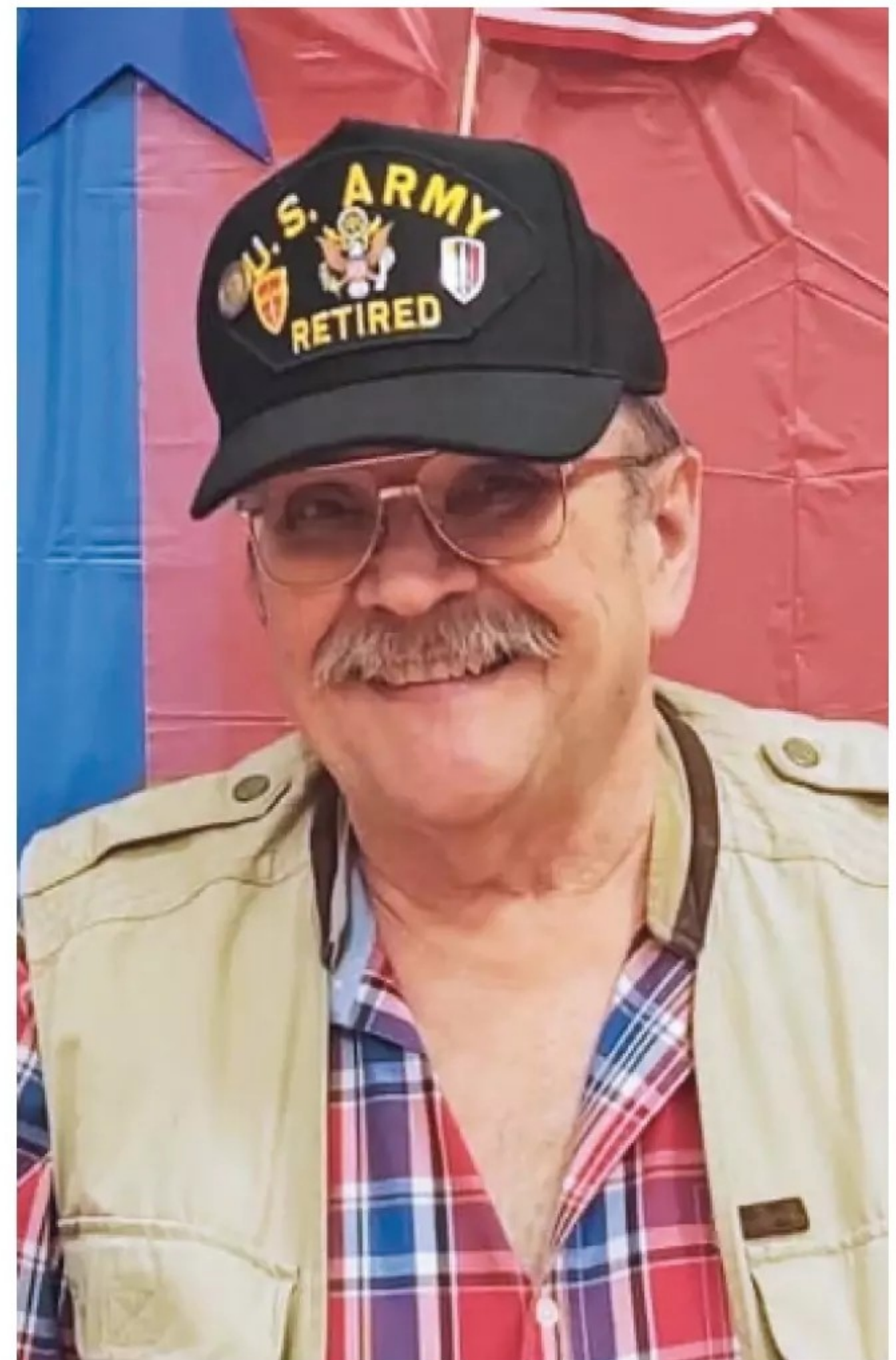
It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of John M. Miller of Marietta, Ohio who passed away on August 23, 2025. While the name may not be familiar to many, John was an icon among small arms historians, “Class 3” collectors, designers, and shooters. A genuinely kind person, he shared his extensive knowledge freely with all. His passing is a true loss for the entire firearms community.

What made John special? As stated, he was a genuinely kind person; unlike many you meet today in the firearms and defense industries. In a world awash with Type A personalities, egos, users, has-beens, and never-

beens, John stood out like a breath of fresh air. He had an incredible knowledge of US and foreign small arms and ammunition and understood them from not only a historical standpoint, but manufacturing and that of an end-user as well. He was someone many authors, including the late Peter G. Kokalis, would go to for insights, technical and historical data, and wisdom to use in their articles. He was a subscriber to *Firearms News*, as well as to our original publication, *Shotgun News*, which he read since high school. He was also a valued advisor to *Firearms News*, on occasion, during recent years.

A man of commitment to his country and community, John served 32 years in the United States Army. He retired as Chief Warrant Officer 2. As a small arms repair technician, John served two tours in Vietnam. During his time overseas, he ran two shops maintaining military weapons: one in Vungtau and one in Saigon. He also discovered a love of spicy cuisine and became so tolerant of the intense jungle heat that it never quite left him.

For 50 years, John worked as a Special Deputy for the Washington County, Ohio Sheriff’s Office. He was a founding member of the Special Response Team. He was always active and ready to examine any strange relic found throughout the area. John was an expert marksman, serving as a member of the Fort Harmar Rifle Club. He was a member of IDPA, OGCA, NRA, and won many national matches.



John Miller, the real deal in small arms. (Miller family photo)

John was very detailed and technical when giving information about the development of weapons systems and history. He was also a humorist and the wittiest man around. His ability to know exactly when to tell a story was an art, as was his skill as a cartoonist. If one received a card with a hand drawn cartoon from John, you knew you had a treasure. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joyce E. Smith Miller and his sons John P.R. Miller and William G.R. Miller, as well as his grandchildren Miles, Ely, and granddaughter Zoey.

Small arms work will continue through Miller Brothers Munitions, and a limited number of pieces from his museum-quality collection may become available to discerning collectors in the coming months. A multi-part series detailing John’s work in the area of small arms is planned for *Firearms News* in 2026. **FN**



John Miller at a machine gun shoot working on a Browning M1919 machinegun. (Miller family photo)

[Cont. to page 16]

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GEORGIA SHERIFF CALLS UPON CITIZENS TO EXERCISE THEIR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

When All Else Fails, Turn to Reason, Logic, and the Right to Bear Arms.

By Darwin Nercesian, News Field Editor

Following the horrific murder of Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutskaya (23), Butts County Sheriff Gary Long has taken to Facebook, urging Georgia residents to exercise their Second Amendment rights by arming themselves in public. Zarutskaya was returning home from her job at a local pizzeria when she was stabbed to death on the Lynx Blue Line commuter train in Charlotte, North Carolina, on August 22. According to investigators, the suspect, Decarlos Brown (34), appears to have attacked at random, as there seems to be no connection or prior communication between him and Zarutskaya.

“As I sit and watch the horrific crime that was perpetrated on the light rail in Charlotte, North Carolina, a defenseless Iryna Zarutskaya was brutally attacked and stabbed to death for absolutely no reason at all,” Sheriff Long wrote in his statement.

Of course, random is not the same thing as unpredictable, and Brown’s lengthy criminal history includes fourteen cases since 2007 in Mecklenburg County. At 22, he was convicted of shoplifting, larceny, and breaking and entering in three separate proceedings. Not a year later, Brown robbed a man of his cell phone and \$450 at gunpoint in broad daylight at a Charlotte apartment complex. For his efforts, Brown pleaded guilty and served six years in prison, followed by a year of probation.

(Butts County Sheriff Office)

In January 2025, police responded to a disturbance at a hospital, where Brown told them he was being controlled by “manmade material.” Police reports indicate that Brown became agitated when officers advised him that his complaints were of a medical nature and that they could not help him. Brown proceeded to call 911 while officers were still on the scene, resulting in his arrest for misuse of the emergency service. Brown was released without bail, and in July, a judge agreed with a defense request to have Brown evaluated to determine his mental competency to stand trial. It is not clear at this time if that test was completed.

It’s disturbing that an individual with such a long history of criminal behavior can be released without bail. Neither the court nor his own defense attorney is sure whether Brown is mentally competent enough to understand his own trial, yet the justice system seemed content to let him walk amongst law-abiding citizens. Brown is now facing murder charges in North Carolina and a federal charge for committing an act causing death on a mass transportation system, an offense that could carry the death penalty.

It is difficult to see his tragedy for anything more than it is, combining a

pattern of criminal behavior with judicial negligence and liberal prosecutorial standards found in most leftist-run cities. The phenomenon has led to lower or nonexistent bail requirements, prosecutors declining to pursue charges in cases that would have previously carried a prison sentence, more lenient sentencing guidelines, and ultimately more violent criminals on the streets.

“The horrific video of the attack is a clear and undisputed reminder why every citizen that can legally possess a firearm, **SHOULD** possess a firearm and they should be proficient with it. I’m completely baffled that not one person out of the many watching intervened, helped or tried to stop the heinous attack on this helpless woman,” Sheriff Long continued.

That’s among the most cogent and reasonable takes on the matter that I’ve read. While the Second Amendment was implicitly written to enable citizens to withstand and overcome governmental tyranny, it is also a God-given right that allows us to defend against the evil that lurks among us, preying on the innocent without morality, mercy, or a shred of human decency.

While Zarutskaya did not see her attacker coming, making him not only a piece of human garbage but



Community Liaison | Amanda Mac

[Cont. to page 102]

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Darwin Nercesian is a long-time gun rights advocate and shooter of targets far, far away. As a News Field Editor at Firearms News, Darwin writes about the Second Amendment, firearms, and related gear. Follow him on Instagram, X, and YouTube @DToe_Official.

LEFTISTS CHOREOGRAPH FUTURE VIOLENCE IN RESPONSE TO CHARLIE KIRK ASSASSINATION

American Conservatives, Who Are In the Political Spotlight, Are Fortunate to Have the 2nd Amendment

Reactions from the left after the assassination of Charlie Kirk have been repugnant, as many sickos have taken to social media to express their satanic perversion by celebrating the tragic death of a father, husband, and conservative thought leader whose life was dedicated to spreading the word of God, raising a family, and engaging in peaceful discourse meant to instill and encourage these values in America's youth. While many of the typical blue-haired and beta types are out there spreading hate and exposing aspirations of violence, the disease has permeated almost the entire left, including an MSNBC political analyst, a Carolina Panthers



(Shutterstock/Below the Sky)

to the murder by spreading thoughts of hate and violence on his personal Facebook page after Kirk's death.

By that logic, is it fair for someone who finds justice in the murder of another human being to meet the

**The lies these people will spread to justify their vitriol and violence
against those who disagree with them know no bounds.**

communications coordinator, and a George Washington University faculty member who described the slaying as "fair," based on Kirk's stance on the Second Amendment.

Anthony Pohorilak, the Assistant Director of Academic Initiatives at George Washington University's Mount Vernon Campus, responded

"If nothing else, it is fair, in a nation where children get massacred by gun violence on the regular, the people who advocate for continued gun ownership at the expense of those children are not immune from the consequences of their advocacy. No thoughts, and no prayers," Pohorilak posted.

same fate? Is it fair to be murdered for your thoughts or speech on a topic of debate? Is it fair to be murdered for supporting the Bill of Rights, or any Amendment of our nation's Constitution? The truth is that most leftists only beat the free speech drum when it's for speech and political philosophy they approve of.

“The George Washington University unequivocally condemns all forms of violence... As a university with one of the most politically engaged campus communities in the country, we believe everyone is entitled to their beliefs, and no one should ever be subject to violence for expressing their views. This individual employee is not authorized to speak on behalf of GW, and his opin-

Kirk’s “hateful words” caused the assassination, tipping the left’s hat on how they feel conservatives should be dealt with for disagreeing with them. The network promptly fired Dowd and issued an apology.

Even Army Colonel Scott Stephens couldn’t help himself, getting suspended from official duty after celebrating Kirk’s death on social

have begun to organize groups to identify and hold accountable those who see this senseless loss as an occasion to gloat, celebrate, and advocate for additional violence. Some reports indicate that over 60,000 individuals have been identified, and that calls are being made to employers nationwide who seem more inclined to distance themselves than continue working

I shouldn’t have to tell anyone that there is something inherently evil about celebrating a gruesome murder, but the fact that I feel I must highlight a serious problem in America.

ions do not reflect those of the university,” a George Washington University spokesperson told Fox News Digital.

The statement does not mention whether the university is taking any action, which would be a clear indicator of its sincerity; however, Pohorilak’s bio, previously listing his pronouns as “He/Him,” is no longer available on the George Washington University website. I called the university to confirm whether he was still on staff, but they refused to provide a response.

media. “The death of Charlie Kirk in Utah was tragic. However, we can take comfort in the fact that Charlie was doing what he loved best — spreading hate, racism, homophobia, misogyny, and transphobia on college campuses,” one of his posts read.

The lies these people will spread to justify their vitriol and violence against those who disagree with them know no bounds. In fact, the rhetoric gets worse, with many leftists posting that the murder should have come sooner, or that there’s one down and more to

with now former employees. And this is not a First Amendment issue, as private business owners have the right to choose who they want representing their brand and how they want to be seen by the public they depend on for their livelihoods.

I shouldn’t have to tell anyone that there is something inherently evil about celebrating a gruesome murder, but the fact that I feel I must highlight a serious problem in America. Leftists in government have been using the media to pervert people’s

You can’t mainline delusion for so long and expect society to remain mentally well. But maybe that’s the point.

Others who would have benefited from Charlie Kirk’s decorum include Charlie Rock, a member of the NFL’s Carolina Panthers communications department, who took to social media to ask why people were sad that Kirk had been murdered, followed by sharing the song “Protect Ya Neck” from the Wu-Tang Clan. This distasteful scumbag had the audacity to mock Kirk’s murder and the tragedy his family will carry in their hearts for the rest of their lives. Now we can mock him all the way to the unemployment line, as he was fired the day after the shooting.

MSNBC’s Matthew Dowd thought it appropriate to suggest that Charlie

go, with some suggesting to keep killing until conservatives are wiped out.

Examples continue to pile up daily, with the University of Mississippi terminating a member of its staff for insensitive social media remarks, and Middle Tennessee State University firing a dean after stating that she has “zero sympathy” for Kirk. Additionally, it seems the Trump administration is revoking visas and deporting those visiting America who have outed themselves as violent psychopaths by celebrating the assassination.

Not being quick to violence, conservatives have taken a page from the left’s cancel culture playbook and

minds, desensitizing them to worldly abominations like killing babies in the womb, promoting child mutilation while punishing parents who disagree that their underage children should undergo hormone therapy or surgery to change their sex, and using words like Nazi, Hitler, dictator, and fascist to influence their sychophants to violence. You can’t mainline delusion for so long and expect society to remain mentally well. But maybe that’s the point. Remember, when chaos ensues, what often follows are the most terrifying words in the English language: “I’m from the government and I’m here to help.” **FN**



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- PEEL & STICK
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CHAMPION **VisiColor 50YD SIGHT-IN**

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CARRYING A RELOAD

While there is no way to verify the actual numbers, it's estimated that ninety percent of potential problem situations are stopped with just the mere presentation of a firearm, without a shot needing to be fired. We don't live in the John Wick universe—in the real world, when a gun comes out, normal people usually stop causing problems, because they don't want to get shot. And yet...still, private citizens have to fire shots from their concealed carry pistols thousands of times a year. Private citizens are the real first responders, not whoever shows up after 911 is called.

When it comes to lawful shootings involving private citizens the FBI is not as rigorous in collecting data as with shootings involving law enforcement officers, but we still have a good database. It's said the "statistically average gunfight" involving a private citizen or cop is the "Rule of 3"—three rounds fired in three seconds at an average three yards distance. It's also said that the gunfight will only last as long as you've got rounds in your gun. Luckily, CCW guns are holding more and more ammo. The number of actual documented incidents where a private citizen actually had to reload his CCW pistol hovers close to zero. So, if that's the case, why carry a reload for your CCW pistol?

First, and I'll address semi-autos here, as they are far more popular than revolvers, that magazine is the heart of your gun. If your magazine fails, your gun stops working entirely, or becomes a jam-o-matic. If you actually shoot, practice, and train, you understand that magazines are a consumable—they wear out. Springs tire, feed lips spread, or the magazines get broken while dropping onto the ground while practicing your reloads.

Considering the thing most likely to fail in your gun is the magazine, and a spare magazine doubles your available ammunition capacity, having a spare magazine on you for your CCW gun seems a no-brainer. And yet some people don't. (James Tarr)



Chances are, if anything is going to go wrong with your gun during an altercation it is more likely to be magazine-related than anything else. So, simply having a spare magazine on your person, just in case, for that reason, seems a smart move—and that's even before we get to the fact that the spare magazine holds additional rounds.

I get it—carrying a gun is a pain in the butt (or the hip, or the pocket, whatever). The majority of people who have CCWs do not carry regularly, and a certain percentage of them almost never carry, they got their CCW "just in case." Getting them to also carry a spare magazine when they do carry a gun is an uphill battle, especially when the chance of them needing it is near zero.

However, you'll notice I said, "near zero," not zero. The whole premise behind carrying a self-defense handgun is acknowledging that you

are responsible for your own safety, and there's a chance (albeit small) you might need a gun. Who's to say what that situation is going to look like? An average is composed of extremes from both ends of the spectrum. That might be just one homeless guy with a dull knife demanding your wallet... but as I'm writing this, much of Belfast is in flames and mobs are taking to the streets, and the UK police forces are either doing nothing...or arresting the wrong people.

You are on your own. Expect to self-rescue. Nobody who ever found themselves in a gunfight ever regretted having too much ammo.

So, let's address that spare reload. First, let's talk about revolvers. Personally, I prefer semi-autos, but I've carried a snubnose more than

Extended magazines don't really work for the one in your CCW gun, but they're perfect for your spare magazine. The second magazine Springfield Armory supplies for their Echelon is an extended 20-rounder for exactly this reason. (James Tarr)



MONOGOOSE

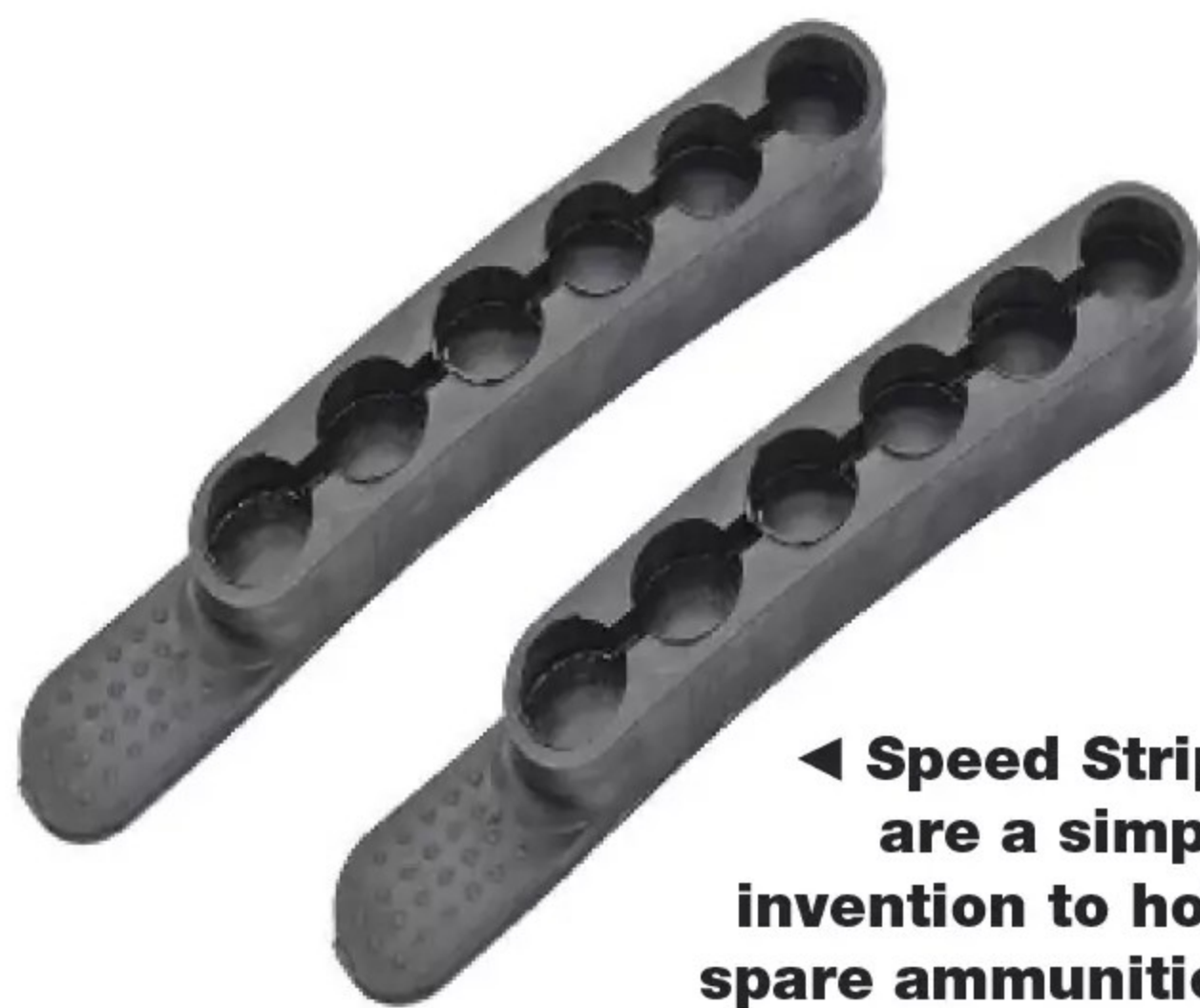
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CARRYING CONCEALED



◀ **Speed Strips** are a simple invention to hold spare ammunition for your revolver. They snap around the rims and hold six rounds flat and in a row. (Bianchi photo)

► **One of the neat things about Speed Strips** is you can use them to reload your wheel gun two rounds at a time. Insert the cartridges partway into the cylinder, then twist up, and the rounds will pop out of the rubber Speed Strip. (Bianchi photo)



DeSantis' Mag-Packer holds a spare magazine in your off-side pocket. It is convenient and pretty fast to use. (DeSantis)

a few times. Reloading a revolver is always going to be slower than reloading a semi-auto. And you can reload it one of three ways—using loose rounds, using a Speed Strip, or using a speedloader.

Loose rounds in your pocket are annoying, and that's the slowest way to reload. I wouldn't want to have to do it at speed, much less under threat. A speedloader is the fastest, but it is bulky, so it's either going to be bulging a pocket or one more thing riding on your belt. To me, Speed Strips seem the best compromise of speed and concealability.

If you've never heard of Speed Strips, I believe Bianchi invented them and currently has the patent on the name—you can find them for sale from a number of online retailers (BianchiLeather.com). It is a rubber strip that holds the bases of six cartridges in a row, so it lays flat. Perfect for a pocket. You bend the strip just a bit to separate the cartridge

from the others beside it, slide it into the chamber of your cylinder, and then twist the Speed Strip off the rims of the cartridges. Best thing is you can do this two cartridges at a time. They are cheap, simple to use, and about the size in your pocket of one of those minimalist Ridge-type wallets.

With semi-autos, a reload is simple—a spare magazine. But that spare magazine is an opportunity. Higher capacity magazines compromise concealability when inserted into a firearm, but are perfect for your backup magazine. Carry your Glock/

SIG/S&W/Ruger/whatever with a flush magazine inserted, so it prints against your covering garment as little as possible, but carry a higher-capacity extended magazine for your spare.

As for where to carry your reload, the absolute best choice is on your belt in a dedicated carrier—inside the waistband or outside, I don't care, although IWB is always more low profile/easier to conceal. On your weak side, if it's a magazine, on your strong side if it's a revolver speedloader, simply because of the hand you'll be using to reload with. If you're carrying appendix (which is currently very popular), many of those holsters have a spare magazine carrier already attached.

If it's not on your belt, the next best place for your reload is a pocket. Preferably a pocket that is otherwise empty, so you're not grabbing papers/keys when you go for the reload, and lint and detritus isn't getting ground into your mag/speedloader every time you take a step. You can find companies selling fancy clips and magnet things to hang your mags inside a pocket, but personally I prefer the simplicity of something like DeSantis' Mag-Packer, which is a padded pouch that fills your pocket and holds the magazine at an angle for quick removal while disguising its shape (DeSantisHolster.com).

As a wise man once said, it is impossible to have too much ammunition on you unless you are underwater or on fire. The chances of you needing to use your gun at all, much less finding yourself in a situation where you'll need to do a reload, are exceeding small. But not zero. **FN**



Like a lot of new appendix holsters, Safariland's InCogX has an optional spare magazine carrier that attaches right to the holster (Safariland.com). (James Tarr/Safariland)



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Introduced in 2007 for High Power Long Range competition, Hornady's 6.5mm Creedmoor has become very popular among not only hunters but even the US military. (David M. Fortier)

6.5MM CREEDMOOR: AS GOOD AS THEY SAY?

Originally Developed to Punch Paper in NRA High Power Competition, Where Does the 6.5mm Creedmoor Stand Today?

I have long been a fan of cartridges topped with 0.26-inch diameter bullets. Military classics such as the 6.5x50mmSR Arisaka and 6.5x55mm Swede both peak my interest. Plus, I'm fond of the 6.5x38mm Grendel mated to an AR-15 and even the old .260 Remington. So, it was no surprise that when the 6.5mm Creedmoor was introduced in 2007 that I took note. It seemed like an interesting cartridge with great potential if it was mated to

a quality rifle. But, is it all it's cracked up to be and should you consider it over say, the steadfast but mundane .308 Winchester?

Let's begin by taking a look at the origins of this flat shooting cartridge. The 6.5mm Creedmoor actually began with a conversation between Hornady Senior Ballistician Dave Emary



The 6.5mm Creedmoor can be seen here with some of its peers (L to R): .308 Win, .260 Rem, 6.5mm Creedmoor, 6.5mm PRC, 6.5x55mm and .300 Win Mag. (David M. Fortier)

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WIDTH: 1.41"

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The 6.5mm Creedmoor's overall length allows it to fit in short-action rifles and AR-10s this like Aero Precision. (Ashley Jaderborg)

and two-time National High Power Champion Dennis DeMille at the National Matches. At the time they were simply “bench-racing” about the ideal match cartridge. DeMille’s requirements consisted of match-grade accuracy, a high ballistic coefficient projectile, long barrel and brass life, moderate chamber pressure, low recoil, ability to feed from a short action and to be readily available and affordable.

Emary took these requirements and, with Joe Thielen, used them to develop a new cartridge. The end goal was to provide the accuracy and exterior ballistics to be competitive at the top level of High Power Long Range competition using factory ammunition or easily produced handloads. Emary selected a 6.5mm diameter due to the wide selec-

tion of 0.264-inch-diameter match projectiles with high Ballistic Coefficients. These are not only very efficient but provide light recoil.

The end result from Emary and Thielen’s work was an exciting new 6.5mm cartridge called the Creedmoor which Hornady introduced in 2007. The basis for the Creedmoor is Hornady’s earlier .30 Thompson Center (TC) cartridge developed for Thompson/Center Arms. Basically they pushed the shoulder back on a .30 TC and necked it down to 6.5mm. Designed from the ground up for competition, this cartridge offers performance similar to the .260 Remington. However, thanks to a longer neck combined with a slightly shorter case length (1.915 inches), bullets do not intrude on powder capacity like with the .260 Remington.

Despite the shorter case length water capacity still runs between 51–52 grains. Base diameter is 0.470 inch and shoulder angle is 30 degrees. Case length is 1.920 inches and it has an overall length of 2.825 inches. This allows it to fit into a short-action rifle as well as an AR-10 type semi-auto. Hornady’s goal with this cartridge was for it to be not only extremely accurate, but capable of driving high BC bullets at respectable velocity with decent barrel life. Basically it was designed to be successful in a specific type of competition.

While it may be hard to believe today, but when the 6.5mm Creedmoor was first introduced it wasn’t a resounding sales success. American shooters had always preferred the larger 0.308-inch bore size, and the amount of riflemen competing in High Power Long Range is relatively small. However, as the years went by

Hornady was able to successfully market the cartridge to big game hunters and long range shooters. In doing so they accomplished what none of the 6.5mm cartridges which came before were able to, mainstream success with American sportsmen and marksmen.

This leads us to the question, “Does the 6.5mm Creedmoor deserve its reputation as a fine cartridge and should you consider buying one?” In my humble opinion the 6.5mm Creedmoor is an excellent cartridge in its class, and I’ve shot well with it out to 1,500 yards. It accomplishes exactly what it was intended to do, and it provides an advantage in exterior ballistics over the older .308 Winchester at medium and longer distances. If you are shooting at steel or paper at 600 yards and beyond then it is definitely a cartridge to consider.

The virtues of the 6.5mm Creedmoor today are its very good exterior ballistics, it is light recoiling and so comfortable to shoot, has a wide variety of excellent modern projectiles available for it, is available in a wide variety of rifle models and the ammunition is readily available at your local gun shop. It has become hugely popular among American hunters.

With that said, it must be remembered that many riflemen and sportsmen in the United States live in a 200 yard, or even 75 yard world. Many riflemen will realistically never shoot beyond 200 or 300 yards, and many



Accuracy of the 6.5mm Creedmoor can range from hunting grade to excellent like this 5-shot group, it just depends on the rifle and the load. (David M. Fortier)

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Today the 6.5mm Creedmoor is hugely popular with match, hunting and plinking loads available from most manufacturers including Federal Premium. (David M. Fortier)

hunters will never shoot at medium or big game past 200 yards. What about for them? Is the 6.5mm Creedmoor still an ideal cartridge? At these distances the old .308 Winchester puts a larger diameter and heavier payload on target. Call me a heretic from “back

East” but the .308 Winchester really shines at these realistic distances. Lastly, the Dark Horse in the room is the 6.5mm Creedmoor’s future not at the range or in the hunting field, but with the US military. Back in 2017 U.S. Special Operations Command ran

the 7.62x51mm NATO head to head with the 6.5mm Creedmoor and .260 Remington in the SR-25, M110A1 and Mk 20 Sniper Support Rifle. SOCOM determined the two 6.5mm cartridges offered a noticeable advantage over the 7.62x51mm, doubling hit-probability at 1,000 meters. While the .260 Rem and 6.5mm Creedmoor offer nearly identical performance it was felt the Creedmoor case design offered certain advantages. In the years that followed US military interest in the 6.5mm Creedmoor expanded out from sniper and sniper support rifles into General Purpose Machine Guns. In 2019 FN unveiled a Mk 48 Mod 2 machine gun prototype chambered in 6.5mm Creedmoor. Despite the recent adoption of the new 6.8x51mm Common cartridge, interest in the 6.5mm Creedmoor appears to remain high with certain units in the US military.

Personally, I like the 6.5mm Creedmoor and think it’s a well-designed cartridge. I think it accomplishes what it was designed to do. I just don’t think it’s a wand of death or a magnum. A hugely successful cartridge, it is widely embraced by hunters, recreational and competitive shooters. To find out about the latest 6.5mm Creedmoor offerings by Hornady Manufacturing, Inc. visit www.Hornady.com. **FN**

ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART 6.5MM CREEDMOOR RUGER SFAR RIFLE WITH 20-INCH BARREL				
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation	Average Group (in.)
Federal Gold Medal Berger	130	2,737	10.6	1.0
Hornady ELD-M	140	2,628	26.1	1.2
SIG Sauer Match	140	2,607	15.1	1.7
Winchester Match OTM	140	2,622	20	0.9

Accuracy results are averages of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity readings are 10-shot averages recorded at the muzzle with a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 75 degrees F 1,030 feet above Sea Level.

ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART 6.5MM CREEDMOOR SAVAGE ARMS MODEL 12 LONG PRECISION WITH 26-INCH BARREL				
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation	Average Group (in.)
Hornady A-MAX	120	2,941	21	0.5
Hornady SST	129	2,972	29	1.0
Hornady A-MAX	140	2,749	19	0.4

Accuracy results are averages of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity figures are 10-shot averages recorded on an Oehler 35P chronograph placed 12 feet from the muzzle at an ambient temperature of 30 degrees F at 1030 feet above Sea Level.

6.5MM CREEDMOOR CARTRIDGE DIMENSIONS	
Bullet Diameter:	0.264 inch
Neck Diameter:	0.296 inch
Shoulder Diameter:	0.459 inch
Base Diameter:	0.470 inch
Rim Diameter:	0.472 inch
Rim Thickness:	0.053 inch
Case Length:	1.920 inches
Overall Length:	2.820 inches
Primer Type:	Large Rifle
Manufacturer:	Hornady Manufacturing, Inc., (800) 338-3220, www.Hornady.com



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LOADING THE .45 ACP

King and Still Champion!

The .45 ACP cartridge and the 1911 pistol became public items in early 1911. It probably wasn't right on top as a reloading caliber, but I suspect that changed in April 1917 when we declared war on Germany.

As a defensive and competition cartridge, the .45 ruled the roost from 1919 until, well, now. It was a requirement for Bullseye competition, it was the top dog in IPSC/USPSA until rudely shoved off the podium by the .38 Super in the 1980s. It is still highly regarded, and a must-have for those looking to shoot bowling pins in the classic Main Events. And like all others, it has pluses and minuses.

On the plus side, it and its bullets are easy to handle. The large size means much less fumbling in the



Editor-in-Chief of *Firearms News*, Vincent L. DeNiro, in his first IPSC-style shooting completion at The American Range, North Jackson, Ohio in 1984. He took first place in the Marksman Class using a Llama .45 ACP pistol he tuned up himself. His load was all lead 230-grain semi-wad cutters (SWC) from Ken's Kustom Kartridges. (Larry Ma)



While the .45ACP doesn't benefit as much as the .38 Super when comped, it still benefits. And when you need the horsepower, the Super can't deliver. (Patrick Sweeney)

various steps of reloading. Being short, it wobbles less on a progressive press, so you get fewer cases caught on the upstroke, where it can hit the sizing die and get dinged. Being short and wide, plus usually using a small powder charge, means there's less powder spillage. Running at a low pressure, the force needed to resize fired cases is less. The dead-straight case walls mean you can use a carbide sizing die or one with a TiN sizer ring in it. So, no case lubricant.

On the minuses, it costs more. Bullets cost more, the ammo to create empty cases costs more, primers cost more, and the powder charge is greater than 9mm. Also, since it is a large-ish case and uses pinches of powder, you can double-charge and not notice it. To counter that, reloading .45 ACP offers much greater costs savings than the comparable 9mm. Okay, a quick rundown: the lowest cost I can find for vanilla-plain .45 ACP 230-grain jacketed round nose (JRN) is currently \$350 per thousand. A comparable plated bullet load runs \$230/K (\$150 for bullets, \$50 for primers, \$30 for powder). Reloaded .45 ACP is only a

few dollars per thousand more costly than factory 9mm.

As an extra bonus, the .45 ACP can be loaded across a wide range of power levels. You can easily load it to be not much more recoiling than a standard 9mm load, or you can go all the way up to a +P load that crowds the bottom end of the various revolver magnums. Yes, on the power. A .45 ACP+P load with a 230-grain jacketed hollow point (JHP) can top out just over 1,000 fps, which is what a factory



The .45 ACP on the right was king of the hill until the .38 Super, center and left showed up on the scene. Higher magazine capacity and more gas pressure at the comp made the .38 Super work better in USPSA/IPSC competition. (Patrick Sweeney)

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As I usually do, I build, and keep built, a toolhead for each caliber. So far, the .45 ACP has only needed one, no specialty loads here. Carbide sizer, no need for case lube. (Patrick Sweeney)

“police” load for the .41 and .44 Magnums offer. It out-does any .44 Special factory load for defense, and while the heaviest-weight .357 Magnum loads top it by 100 fps, they only do so with a bullet of 180 grains.

For the soft-shooting loads, it is easy to load up a 185-grain lead semi-wadcutter (SWC) to a paltry 750 fps and plink with a low-recoil load. (A 185-grain at 750 fps is a 139 power factor/PF, which is what a moderate to stiffish 9mm load produces. Recoil that is a piece of cake in an all-steel 1911.) If you are willing to experiment with recoil springs, you can dial that back even more. Back in the 1980s I was shooting an indoor PPC league with the local Sheriff’s Department. I slowed down my 185-grain bullets down to the 600+ fps range, with a really soft recoil spring. (They still thought I was shooting a magnum.)



Shape and weight matter. The 230-grain lead round nose (LRN), from Northeast, feeds like a dream, but the truncated cone 230-grain bullets in the middle (Northeast and Old Oregon Trails) take pins off better. The plated 250-grain on the right does it best of all. (Patrick Sweeney)



The .45 ACP can handle a wide range of bullet weights. Here, left to right: 152 grain SWC (manufacturer long gone), Missouri Bullet 155-grain SWC, Northeast 200-grain H&G 68, Berrys’s 200-grain plated RN, Northeast 230 LRN, Hornady 230 JRN (recovered from a bowling pin), and a 250-grain plated FN (manufacturer is long gone). (Patrick Sweeney)

So, teaching a new shooter, using a .45 ACP as the training pistol, can easily be done with reloaded ammo.

However, you have to be careful starting the process. First, found brass. There will be some really old, some heavily used, and some generally abused, .45 ACP brass at your gun club. Plus, a mixture steel and aluminum cases as well. (Neither of those can be reloaded.) So, you must be diligent in sorting out your bonanza of found brass. Plus, there is the matter of Federal ammunition. I love the guys at Federal, they make great ammo (one might even say “premium” ammo), but a while back they switched their .45 ACP brass to small pistol primers. I understand the various reasons, and they are all good ones. (Easier to offer lead-free primers to LE. Easier to keep inventory straight. Easier to contain costs. Just as reliable and accurate.) However, it makes reloading problematic. One small-pistol-primer case mixed into your loading bin will bring your progressive press to an instant and jarring halt when you go to seat a large pistol primer. You will have to keep a sharp eye out for the small

primers when picking up found brass at the gun club.

Then it is the usual steps of wash or ultrasonic the sand, grit and mud off. Dry tumble clean until shiny. Part of the hard use they get will produce cracked cases. I like to jingle a handful of cases as I toss them into the case feeder. Once you train your ear, a cracked case will sound different in the jingling. Even though it runs at a lower pressure than the 9mm, I find more cracked cases in .45 ACP, but not many, really.

As far as dimensions go, the standard length for 230-grain round-nose is 1.250 inches. Your neck expander (or powder drop tube, depending on your loading process) should be .446 of an inch and the taper crimp should be .468 of an inch. It really is that simple.

Standard bullet weights run from 185 grains to 230. However, you can go both higher and lower. On the low end there are two types. One is the Badman Bullets 160-grain round nose flat point (RNFP). This is a coated bullet, and you can load it to 850–900 fps to make a 9mm-equivalent recoil load. The other is an older approach.

► Federal now makes its .45 ACP ammunition using small pistol primers. You must sort when picking up and/or cleaning, to be sure you don’t mix them. (Patrick Sweeney)



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The powder drop tube, which is also the neck expander, should be .446 of an inch for the .45 ACP. (Patrick Sweeney)



Crimp is important, and the .45 ACP gets only a taper crimp. Here, .468 of an inch is correct. (Patrick Sweeney)



A revolver, in order to be reloaded as quickly as possible, needs round-nose ammo. (Patrick Sweeney)



On the left is the Blue Bullets 230-grain coated round-nose. On the right their 250 flat point. Both work in the .45 ACP, and both work great on pins. (Patrick Sweeney)

Back when the .38 Super was taking over IPSC, .45 shooters tried to keep up. The approach was to take a 185-grain semi-wadcutter and put it on a diet. The “thumbtack” bullet has a long thin nose and a narrow barrel and weighed from 152 to 155 grains depending on the manufacturer. It can be touchy to reload, because keeping it straight while seating and

crimping is not easy. I ended up making a modified bullet seater. Instead of pushing on the bullet nose, I made it with a long skirt, and it bears on the shoulder of the bullet, never touching the nose. If you want to go the 155-grain-bullets route with modern bullets, Missouri Bullets has them, both cast and coated.

Don’t neglect the vanilla-plain 230-round nose. Not only does it feed well in pistols, if you are going to run

a revolver in .45ACP, the moon clips feed a lot more smoothly when they are filled with round-nose ammo. I’ve been doing that since the mid-1980s.

For the regular weights there is no lack of bullets to choose from. If someone offers a .45 bullet, they probably make at least one each of 185, 200, and 230 grains. Maybe two or three each.

In the reloading, resizing cases is easy. No need for lube. Large pistol primers are easier to handle than small pistol, and the primer feed system on presses seems happier with it as well. You’ll want to fuss over the case belling setting. If you bell too much you over-work the brass and will experience a shorter case life. Too little and the big bullets will catch on the case mouth and crush the case when you try to seat. Crimp is the ever-standard in pistols taper crimp. Here you target figure it .468 of an inch.

As far as powders go, the .45 ACP has a MAP of 21,000 PSI, and the +P limit is 23K PSI. So, all the fast powders and up into the middle range of medium-burn-rate powders are yours to try. The classic .45 ACP powder is Winchester 231. It is also known as HP38. Yep, the exact same powder, just in different bottles. The standard IPSC load well into the 1980s was 5.8 grains of WW-231 and a 200-grain H&G SWC.

Fair warning on powder selection: not all burn-rate powders operate in the same pressure region. A lot of the



When you need the power, the .45 ACP delivers. You pay the price, however, as recoil mounts up. (Patrick Sweeney)

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DOUBLE ALPHA'S PRIMER TUBE FILLER

One of the hassles of reloading is getting the blanket-blank primers into the tubes, and then into the press. I've been picking them up in tubes for half a century now, and I still loathe the process. So, when Double Alpha came out with their Primafill Gen-2, I was in. Instead of the wrist-wearing up-and-down of picking them up one at a time, you go automatic. A 9V battery vibrates it and the primers slide right into the tube.

With half a century of practice it still takes me two minutes from pick up a primer pack to dump the full tube into the press. With the Primafill Gen 2 it is more like 30 seconds. A minute and a half, over the course of 50,000 rounds (a good year's practice for an aspiring shooter) means twelve and a half *hours* of saved time. And it comes complete with what you need for both large and small primers. **FN**



The Double Alpha primer tube filler is the greatest thing since sliced bread. (Patrick Sweeney)

powders you'll see in the range the .45 can use will be shotgun powders. Those are designed to operate efficiently below 12,000 PSI. Asking them to work at 15,000+PSI to run a .45 doesn't always work. So, if you happen to score an unopened keg of some shotgun powder at a garage sale, but can't find loading data for it in .45 ACP, there is almost certainly

a good reason. Trade it to a shotgunner for a powder that will work in .45 ACP.

Bullets are easy to find, even if the price is greater than 9mm. Jacketed bullets will be .451" and lead/coated ones will be .452". Ignore the .454" and .458" bullets. The .454" are meant for use in the .45 Colt (and then only in older revolvers that might need

them) and .458" is the "rifle 45" bullet diameter. As far as primers are concerned your search will be for large pistol primers. No need for magnum primers, you aren't ever going to be igniting enough powder to make it necessary to go magnum.

As far as accuracy is concerned, the .45 ACP was the required cartridge for Bullseye competition for three-quarters of a century and is still being used there. All makers of components know what it takes to produce accurate ammunition, so you should not have any problems producing accurate ammunition. (Later I'll regale you with the lessons learned using a Ransom rest shooting machine.) For power, the +P level loads will deliver as much as you'll want to be putting out of a pistol. The top-end for regular use would be for bowling pins, and that is a power factor from 195 to 205 or so. **FN**

SOURCES
Badman Bullets Badmanbulelts.com, (541) 409-5047
Berry's Manufacturing, Inc. BerrysMFG.com, (800) 269-7373
The Blue Bullets TheBlueBullets.com
CCI Ammunition CCI-Ammunition.com, (800) 948-1356
Dillon Precision DillionPrecision.com, (800) 223-4570
Double Alpha DoubleAlpha.biz, (888) 628-3233
Federal FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100
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Missouri Bullet Company MissouriBullets.com, (816) 597-3204
Speer Speer.com, (877) 426-7849
VihtaVuori Powders VihtaVuori.com
Winchester Ammunition Winchester.com

.45 ACP LOADING DATA			
Bullet Weight (gr.) & Bullet Type	Powder Brand	Powder (gr.)	Velocity (fps)
155 L-SWC coated	WW-231	6.5	955
185 L-SWC	Titegroup	4.9	910
200 L-SWC	Titegroup	5.2	925
200 L-SWC	WW-231	5.8	895
200 Berry PRN	Accurate #2	5.2	812
230 TMJ	Titegroup	4.7	747
230 XTP (Hornady)	VV-320	4.8	782
BOWLING PIN LOADS			
230 HAP (Hornady)	Unique	6.5	863
230 HAP (Hornady)	WSF	6.4	859
230 RN (Blue Bullets)	HP38	5.5	912
255 RFN (Blue Bullets)	HP38	4.9	820

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DEAD AIR SILENCERS' SANDMAN X

Non-Stop Improvements

Dead Air Silencers is one of those companies that does not stop stepping up, making changes, adding improvements. There are a lot of suppressor makers who also step up, but Dead Air has been making their Sandman series better and better for decades now. The X is the culmination of ten years of those efforts, but it probably won't be the last step. And that is why it is called the "X" in the Sandman series.

First things first, the Sandman X is not a lightweight silencer. With the Xenomount (more on that in a bit) it tips the scales at just under a pound, and that is due to its construction. The Sandman X is comprised of an alloy known as Haynes 282. This is a proprietary alloy from Haynes International, a company based in Indiana with over a million square feet of production space. So, US made, and by a company that has been in the alloy business for over a century and knows what they are doing.

Haynes 282 falls into the category we can call Inconel, but the Haynes 282 alloy is designed for use in gas turbines, so that means strength and stability at high temperatures. With the alloy being almost half nickel, and big amounts of Chromium cobalt and Molybdenum, this is a dense alloy that stands up to abuse.

Dead Air 3D prints the Sandman X from Haynes 282 (just getting the Haynes 282 into a form that can be



The Sandman X comes in a clearly marked box, with tools. (Patrick Sweeney)

3D printed, and then printing it, had to be quite an engineering effort) and once printed, each one gets a Cerakote coating, either black or flat dark earth (FDE). Now, the thing about the various Inconel alloys is that they create their own anti-oxidation surface the first time they are heated up. So even if you should burn off, or wear off the Cerakote coating (and that would be quite the task) your Sandman X will still be protected from the elements.

The internal design is, as the industry has been trending, modified



The Sandman X comes with a foil wrapper with the Dead Air logo. If you want to save it, it slides right off. (Patrick Sweeney)



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The Sandman X not only controls back pressure but flash as well. (Patrick Sweeney)



The Henry Lever Action Supreme tossed the empties out just fine, long after the pressure had subsided. (Patrick Sweeney)

to improve flow-through, and reduce back-pressure as well as dampen muzzle flash. Yes, muzzle flash from a suppressor. If you have not had a chance to use a suppressor in low light or at night, you'd be surprised at the muzzle flash some of the industry legacy designs produce. Dead Air does this without adversely affecting sound reduction. So, you have less gas-face, the same excellent sound reduction, and the durability of Haynes 282.

How much durability? Well, the Sandman X, for use on .30 rifles has no barrel restrictions. If you adapted it to run it in a 5.56, the idea of barrel limitations would be laughable. And as if that wasn't good enough, it is full-auto rated. I do not have anything select-fire in .30 to test it on, but given my prior experience with Dead Air silencers, I have no doubt it would hold up.

Dead Air has also adopted the industry HUB system, so the rear of the Sandman X (which is not user-

serviceable as it does not disassemble) is threaded for the universal HUB mount. You can, if you have the hardware, mount the Sandman X on your rifle using any brand of HUB mount hardware. However, Dead Air makes two excellent mounting systems for the Sandman X, and you get to choose one when you order. One is the Xeno three-prong flash hider mount. This is a closed-time flash hider (so no "twang" on each shot) with a threaded collar that is the mounting system of the rear cap. With the Xeno-threaded rear cap on the Sandman X, you simply screw the Sandman X onto the mount. If you aren't using the Sandman X, then you still have an excellent flash hider on your muzzle.

The other mounting option from Dead Air is the Keymo flash hider. This is a QD system that twists and locks in place. You need the Keymo rear cap for your Sandman X to use

this. Both the Xeno and the Keymo can be had as a flash hider or a muzzle brake. The extra material needed to make the Keymo QD system work (and be as durable as Dead Air expects from their products) ups the weight of the Keymo option. Instead of the 14.5 ounces of the Xeno, the Keymo tips the scales at 16.8 ounces, plus it adds \$60 to the price. If \$60 and 2.3 ounces will break the bank, opt for the Xeno. With both you can order extra mounts and swap your Sandman X from one rifle to another pretty easily. And finally in the box are a pair of tools to use with your Sandman X, wrenches for installing the mount, and removing or installing the rear cap.

In the course of testing the Sandman X, I tried it on a couple of rifles, the first one was an Aero Precision in 6.5 Creedmoor. Installing the Dead Air flash hider, I found it easy to attach the Sandman X. The Aero cycled properly,



◀ **Here you can see the HUB rear of the Sandman X, its Xeno adapter and the Xeno flash hider to go on your barrel. (Patrick Sweeney)**

▶ **The front cap of the Sandman X is designed to create flow-through, and to dampen muzzle flash. (Patrick Sweeney)**



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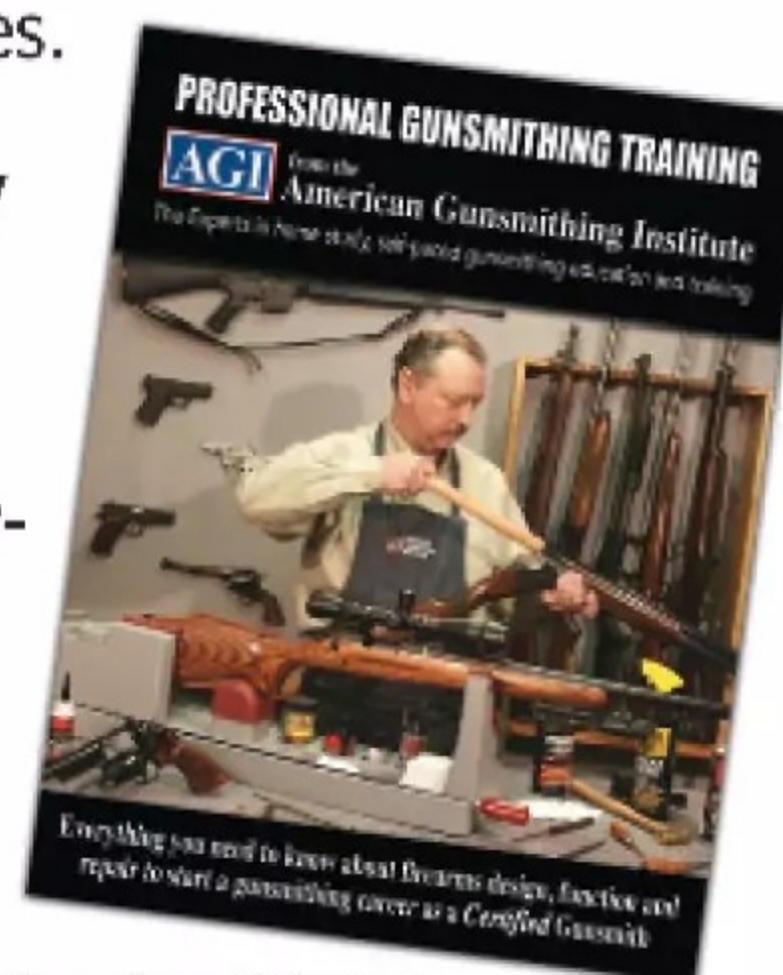
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This Aero Precision rifle, in 6.5 Creedmoor, liked the Sandman X, and vice-versa. (Patrick Sweeney)



Looking into the rear of the Sandman X, at the blast chamber, you can see the kind of complex manufacture that 3D printing can accomplish, and that traditional manufacturing processes cannot. (Patrick Sweeney)



The Sandman X with its Xeno rear cap, and the flash hider assembled on the Henry Lever Action Supreme. (Patrick Sweeney)



Once on, the Sandman X is solidly mounted and does a great job of dampening noise. (Patrick Sweeney)



Along with the tools needed to disassemble the Sandman X (as much as it can be disassembled, anyway) you get flat washers and instructions. (Patrick Sweeney)

the empties went where they were supposed to, and I did not get gas in the face even when shooting it left-handed.

Then, I grabbed a Henry Lever Action Supreme out of the rack, chambered in .300 Blackout, and gave that an afternoon of time. Now, if you want to have real fun, and a lot of time at the range without expending a bucket of ammo, then try this combo. A lever action rifle, so no gas face. Subsonic .300 Blackout, and the Sandman X. This is what you do when you want to get someone hooked on shooting, the sound of the impact of the bullet on the back-stop is louder than the sound of the shot. Steel? Steel plates (shoot at safe distances, please, so 100 yards away) is louder than the shot. You can't go through a full magazine in a few seconds, and the combo of historical (lever action) and modern (suppressor) is just too cool for school.

As suppressor prices go the Sandman X isn't the bargain-basement price, but it has top-end performance, so you are getting a lot of value for your hard-earned money. **FN**

DEAD AIR SILENCERS SANDMAN X	
OAL:	6.4 in. (as tested)
Net Added Length:	6 in.
Diameter:	1.65 in.
Material:	Haynes 282 alloy
Weight:	13.6 oz.
Finish:	Cerakote (Black tested, FDE also available)
Calibers Available:	.30 up to 300 RUM
Full-Auto Rated:	Yes
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THE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN

The Crown Jewel

John Taliaferro Thompson was one seriously busy guy. He served 33 years in uniform. At the time of his promotion, Thompson was the youngest full Colonel in the US Army. While he was responsible for the adoption of the .45ACP cartridge, the M1911 pistol, and the M1903 Springfield rifle, it was a certain radically advanced submachine gun that ensured his place in history as a small arms legend.

The M1921 Thompson submachine gun was lyrically complicated. However, coming as it did at the very end of WWI, the gun was also unique for its era. The first prototypes came available the day after the First World War ended.

Not unlike Gene Stoner and his Armalite buddies who designed the M16, General Thompson's Auto-Ordnance Company was a think tank. They designed the SMG that bore the great man's name, but they lacked the means to produce it. That first block of 15,000 guns was farmed out to Colt's Manufacturing.

Those original Colt Thompsons were simply magnificent contrivances. Meticulously cut out of big blocks of forged steel and then beautifully blued, they were archetypal examples of the interwar gunmaker's art. However, with no wars left to fight, there were relatively few buyers. The basic gun was expensive at \$175. Adding the distinctive Cutts compensator boosted the price up to \$200. That's around \$3,600 today. Auto-Ordnance was in trouble.



The Thompson submachine gun has become inextricably associated with the motorized bandit. (Will Dabbs)

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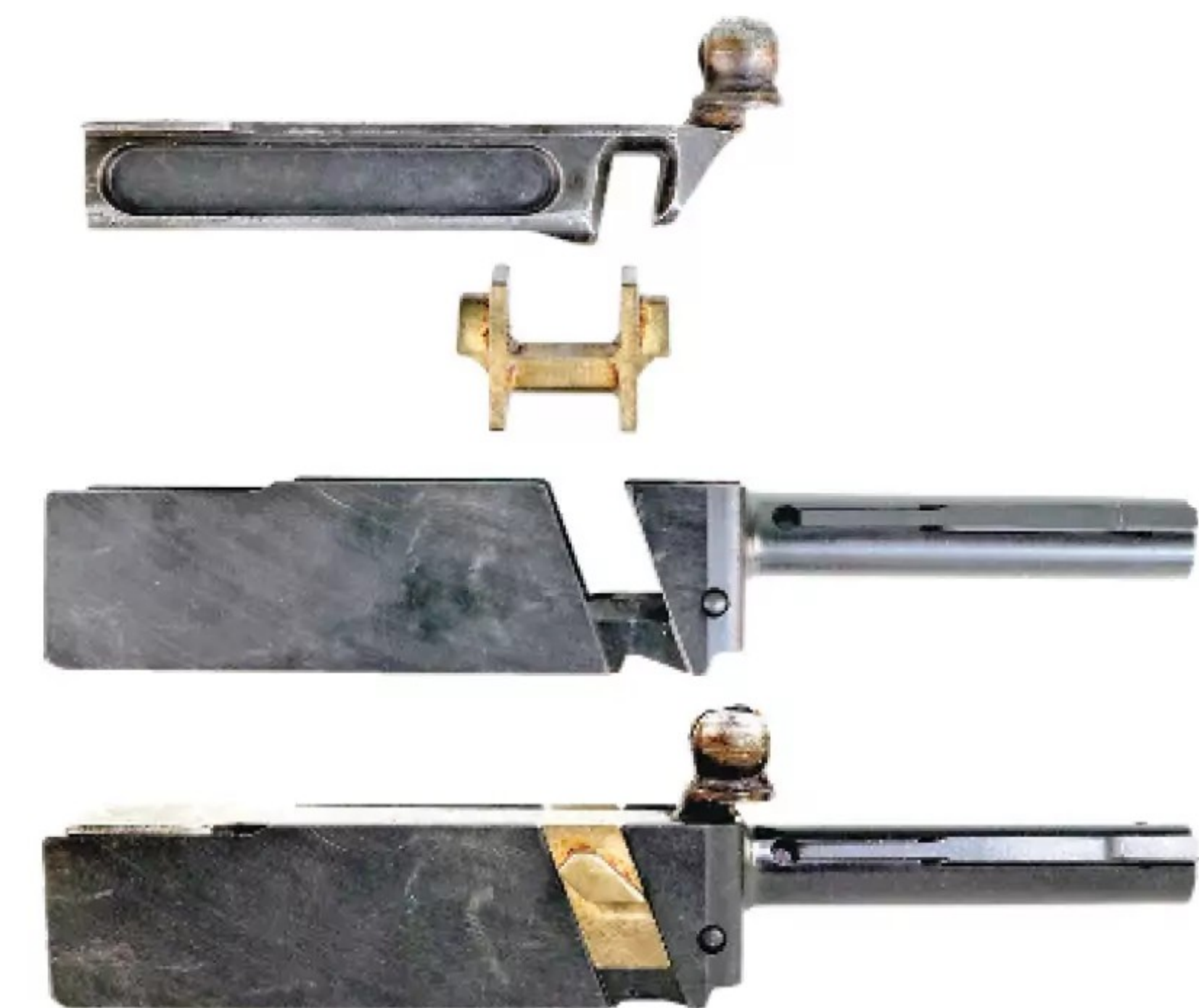
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The original Colt M1921 Thompson is a thing of mechanical beauty. It is the ultimate collectible machinegun. (Will Dabbs)



The Blish lock (the bronze bit shown here) was an inspired yet ultimately unnecessary addition to the Thompson SMG action. (Will Dabbs)



Colt spared no effort or expense in making that first run of 15,000 Thompson submachine guns. They were uniformly gorgeous. (Will Dabbs)

The M1921 Thompson saw enough use during the gangster wars to scare people. Having the Tommy Gun luridly splashed across the Saturday afternoon newsreels helped pass the 1934 National Firearms Act that taxed machineguns out of existence. The examples that survived command crazy prices nowadays.

Mechanical Details

The beating heart of those early Thompsons was the Blish lock. First postulated by American inventor John Bell Blish, the Blish lock operated on the theory that two dissimilar metals, in this case steel and bronze, would exhibit different coefficients of sliding friction based upon the pressure they were under. These early guns incorporated a curious H-shaped bronze locking piece as part of the mechanism. It was expensive and difficult to produce. The Blish lock was also superfluous. British troops fighting in North Africa sometimes ground the legs off of the Blish lock to enhance the gun's reliability in the dusty desert environment. The modified guns ran just fine.

Early M1921 Thompsons cycled at around 900 rpm. Auto-Ordnance redesigned

the gun to include a heavier bolt actuator and stiffer recoil spring to slow the rate of fire down to around 700 rpm. This earned the gun a new M1928 designation. Aside from these parts, the two models were identical. M1928 Thompsons came from that same first run of 15,000 weapons. They had the "1" over stamped with an "8" to designate the change.

The Thompson was hopelessly obsolete by WWII, but it was the only gun of its type available. The British bought all of them they could get their hands on. These early weapons were tweaked slightly and designated the M1928A1.

The M1921 and M1928 had finned barrels, removable buttstocks, and top-mounted bolt actuators. They were also cut to accept drum magazines. However, they were really complicated to manufacture. As a result, the Ordnance Department commissioned a redesign in 1942.

The subsequent M1 Thompson was a very different beast. The Blish lock was gone as were the cooling fins on the barrel. They deleted the Cutts compensator and did away with the drum mounting slots. Along the way, the charging handle was simplified and moved to the right side of the receiver. M1928A1 guns could be found with either vertical or horizontal foregrips. Those of the M1 were all horizontal. The M1 Thompson used a bolt with a separate pivoting firing pin. That of the M1A1 was fixed in the bolt face. These guns were otherwise identical.

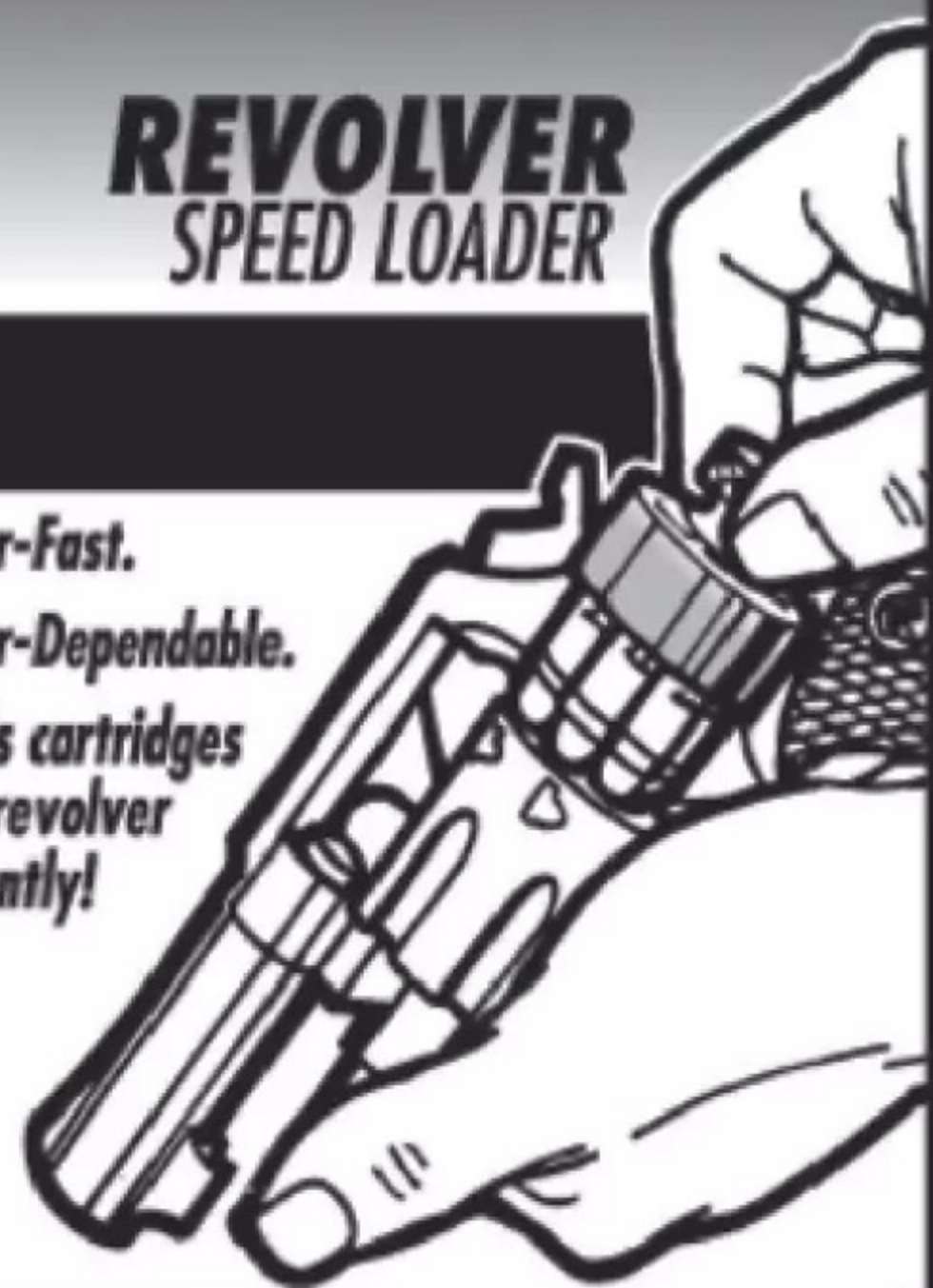
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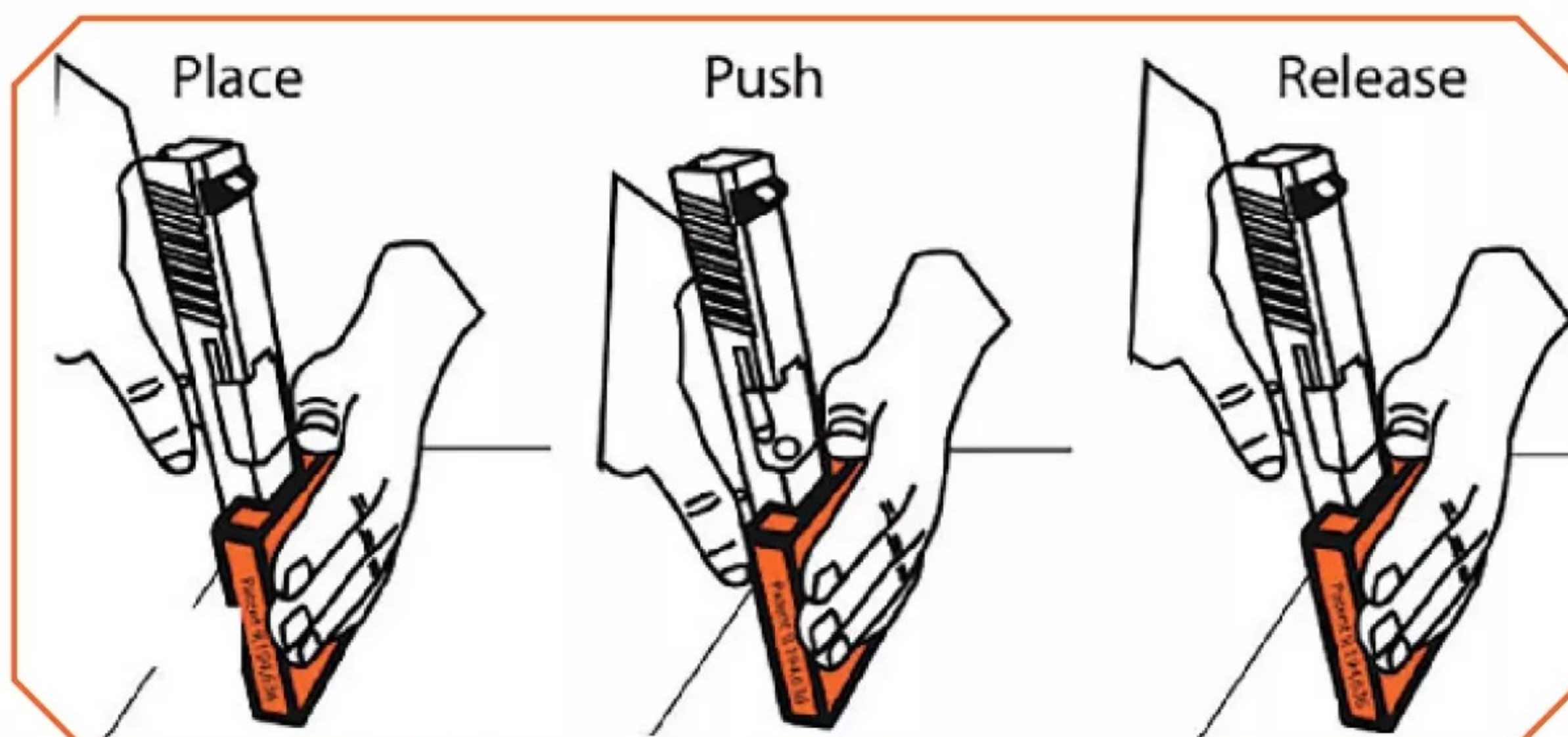
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The Lyman rear sight on those early M1921 Thompsons was insanely complicated. (Will Dabbs)



The Cutts compensator added an additional \$25 to the price of those first Thompson SMGs. (Will Dabbs)

and M1A1 Tommies are the cheapest of the original Curio and Relic (C&R) sort, though they still cost a holy fortune. Thompsons all sport index marks on the barrels, so it is an easy thing to tell if a barrel has been replaced. Collectors live or die over the zillion little details.

WWII saved the Auto-Ordnance Corporation, but not before it had changed hands a time or two. By the 1950's, the company was in dire straits and sold to George Numrich (of Numrich Gun Parts fame). Numrich found himself in possession of the Thompson name and a "zillion" G.I.-surplus parts. He therefore began producing new receivers in West Hurley, New York, in the mid-1960's. Most of these guns were M1928 models, though there were a few M1A1's as well. There were even 300 .22LR versions built on standard M1928 receivers. All of these Thompsons were nicely blued. They also had "West Hurley, New York" stamped on the right side of the receivers. Auto-Ordnance also made new closed-bolt semi-auto versions starting in the 1970s, and those are still available via Kahr-Arms.com.

In the past, West Hurley guns were considered the "mutts" of the Thompson world because of their miscellaneous parts. Additionally, there were some quality control issues that adversely affected reliability. This far out, however, most all West Hurley guns should have been tweaked such that they run well. Relative rarity has made all transferable Thompsons expensive regardless of their origins.



The M1928A1 was the militarized version of the original M1928. The biggest difference was in the gun's ruggedized finish. (Will Dabbs)



◀ The M1921 and M1928 Thompsons had removeable buttstocks. (Will Dabbs)

fractionate down into several broad categories. As with any collectible firearm, the details regarding provenance, condition, and originality drive the price. Some great books have been written on this subject.

Original unaltered M1921 Colt Thompsons are the most desirable and most expensive. M1928 overstamps are right behind them. Wartime M1928A1 examples are a bit cheaper. Government-surplus M1



The slots cut in the receiver of early Thompsons were necessary to accommodate the 50- and 100-round drum magazines. (Will Dabbs)



The M1A1 Thompson was simplified for ease of manufacture. (Will Dabbs)

1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. It was here that I got the idea for our new 1920s Retrograde Watch.

Never ones to miss an opportunity, we carefully steadied our glasses of bubbly and climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch, a genuinely unique timepiece that marries timeless style with modern technology.

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M1A1 Thompsons had smooth barrels that were cheaper and faster to make. (Will Dabbs)



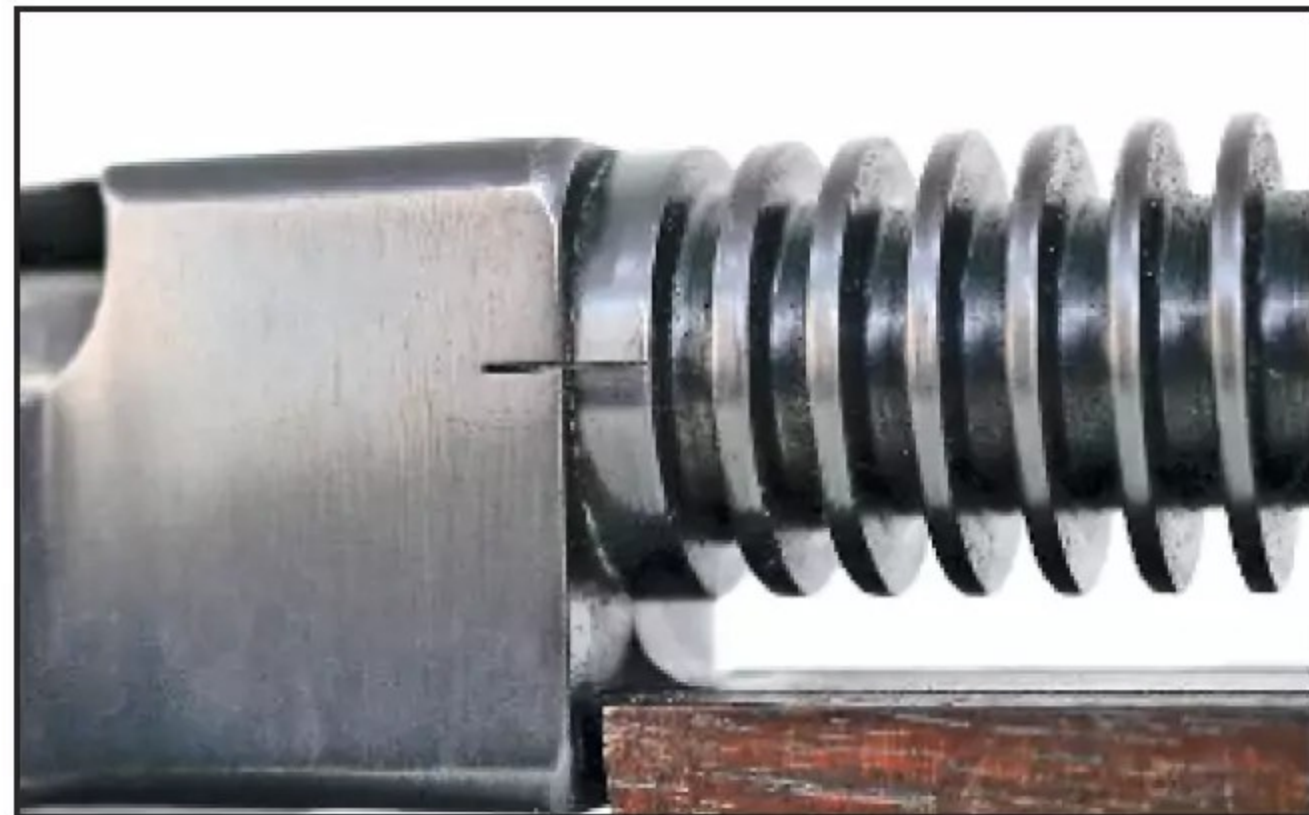
The charging handle on the M1A1 Thompson was a simple peg oriented on the right side of the gun. (Will Dabbs)



G.I. M1A1 Thompson sights are much more utilitarian than the earlier sort. (Will Dabbs)



◀ From top to bottom, we have the M1921 Colt Thompson, the G.I. M1928A1, and the simplified M1A1. (Will Dabbs)



The index marks on the barrel and receiver of this M1921 Thompson verify that the barrel is original. (Will Dabbs)



▲ The West Hurley M1928 Thompsons are mechanically identical to the earlier models. (Rock Island Auctions)



◀ Editor-in-Chief of *Firearms News*, Vincent DeNiro, had these Thompsons on display in his gun store, International Exotic Arms, back in the late 1980s. From top to bottom (all Auto-Ordnance West Hurley, NY manufactured): M1 Thompson, 1928 Thompson, 1927 Thompson semi-auto carbine, 1927 A5 Thompson "Pistol." The M1 and 1928 had matching serial numbers, that pair of machine guns would carry a heavy price today if sold together. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

■ Prices

According to MachineGunPrice Guide.com, original M1921 Colt

Thompsons are running \$55,000–\$60,000 today. M1928 overstamps are about the same. M1 and M1A1 C&R guns hover around \$35k.

West Hurley M1928's are moving for around \$23,000. West Hurley M1s and M1928 .22s are so rare it is tough to establish a reliable price. I would expect the M1928 .22 to cost about what a standard West Hurley M1928 might. It is theoretically possible to convert a .22 version back to fire .45, but it would be a butt whooping. You'd have to gut the gun and replace the barrel as well as the internals. There is also the issue with the paperwork listing the weapon as chambered in .22. As a result, swapping an M1928 .22 back to its centerfire caliber is likely just not worth the trouble.

There were also some full-auto Thompson conversions of semi-autos before May 19, 1986. However, these will not accept many original internal parts (like the bolt) as the BATF required the receivers to be made "taller" so that original full-auto parts could not just be dropped in.

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◀ The West Hurley M1928 .22 fires .22 LR and is built on a standard Thompson receiver. (Rock Island Auctions)



This M1921 Colt Thompson was once owned by the Seattle Police Department. (Will Dabbs)



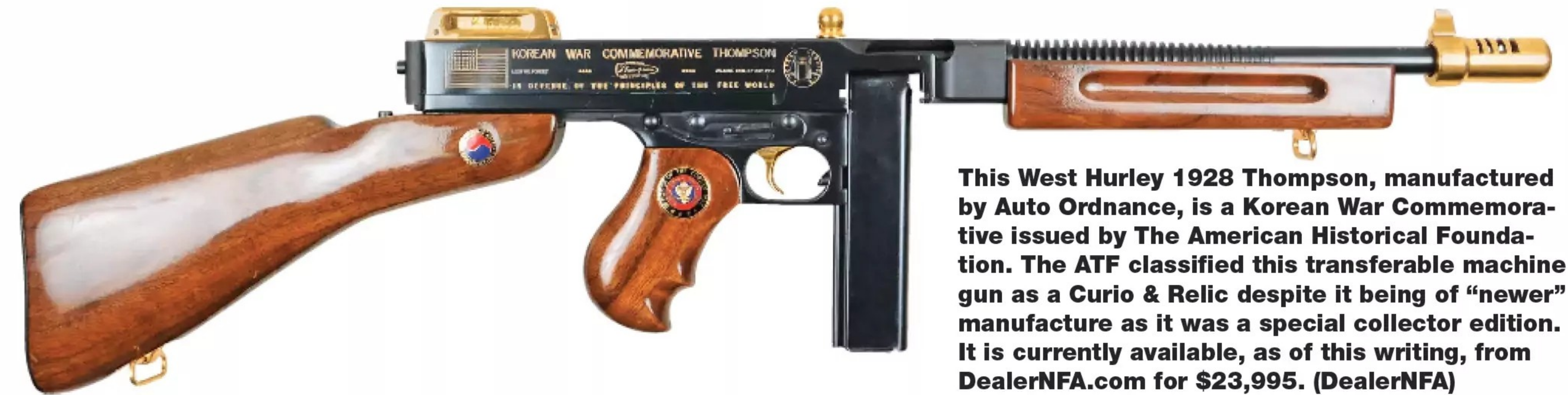
Like any other collectible firearm only more so, the markings on the side of the gun drive the price. (Will Dabbs)



◀ It's a bit risky to shoot these M1921 Thompsons with their original parts. Period-correct vintage replacement components seldom if ever come to market. (Will Dabbs)



► All original selective-fire Thompson submachine guns fire from the open bolt. (Will Dabbs)



This West Hurley 1928 Thompson, manufactured by Auto Ordnance, is a Korean War Commemorative issued by The American Historical Foundation. The ATF classified this transferable machine gun as a Curio & Relic despite it being of “newer” manufacture as it was a special collector edition. It is currently available, as of this writing, from DealerNFA.com for \$23,995. (DealerNFA)

Ruminations

Original Colt M1921 parts are readily identifiable and essentially irreplaceable. As a result, it gets riskier shooting these old original guns as time goes on. Most folks who want to run their vintage M1921 Thompsons will replace the bolt and actuator with sur-

plus GI parts, which are still available at relatively reasonable prices. That way if something breaks, it's not the end of the world.

All Thompsons are heavy, awkward, and fairly clumsy. However, cycling an original by hand is like manipulating a sewing machine. They are also great fun to shoot. Additionally, the historical gravitas that is inextricably attached to the Thompson makes it reliably desirable. As a result, original Thompson submachine guns will forever be the crown jewel in the advanced machine-gun collector's crown. **FN**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS COLT M1921 THOMPSON SMG	
Type:	Blowback/Blish lock selective fire
Caliber:	.45ACP
Barrel:	12 in. w/ compensator
Overall Length:	33.7 in.
Weight (Gun/Gun with Mount):	10.8 lbs.
Finish:	Blue
Sights:	Lyman flip-adjustable rear, front post
Rate of Fire:	900 rpm
Value:	\$55,000 – \$60,000



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BERETTA'S MODELLO 1934 PISTOL

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I love gun collecting. Back in the 1970s and '80s, *Shotgun News* (this publication) was loaded with hundreds of ads for surplus rifles, pistols, ammunition, accessories, and other militaria. In the late 1980s, I started to collect surplus .32 ACP pistols and I had an FN 1910, a Vesta, a MAB, and I think I had a Colt 1903. Unfortunately, I only have the MAB today. Prices were anywhere between \$75 to a couple hundred—surplus was everywhere back then. There is something really special about collecting a certain caliber trying to obtain all handguns from different manu-

facturers that were made during the same period. Around the same time, I did think about also collecting .380 pistols from WWII and back. The Walther PPK was my first one, but I never progressed much beyond it.

Today, Royal Tiger Imports is making surplus collecting a reality again. This is a big deal, as the surplus firearms market dried up over two decades ago and having this Beretta model 1934 pistol in my hands is making me excited about collecting WWII-era pistols again! Especially since I was a Beretta employee for over seven years.

History

The Beretta Modello (Model) 1934 pistol was somewhat an evolution of an earlier Beretta pistol, namely the Modello 1915/19, which served the Italian military from 1915 until 1931. The 1915/19 was updated from the Modello 1915 (chambered in 9mm Glisenti) by enlarging the open-top design to aid in ejection and was chambered for .32 ACP. When the 1915/19 was redesigned in 1932, becoming the 1932 model for a short time, the caliber was changed to 9mm Corto (.380 ACP), and an external hammer was added.

The pistol was also “beefed up” for strength, as it was going to be produced for military use across the Italian armed forces. This became the Modello 1934. Although there are reports of a .32 ACP version of the Modello 1934 having been produced,

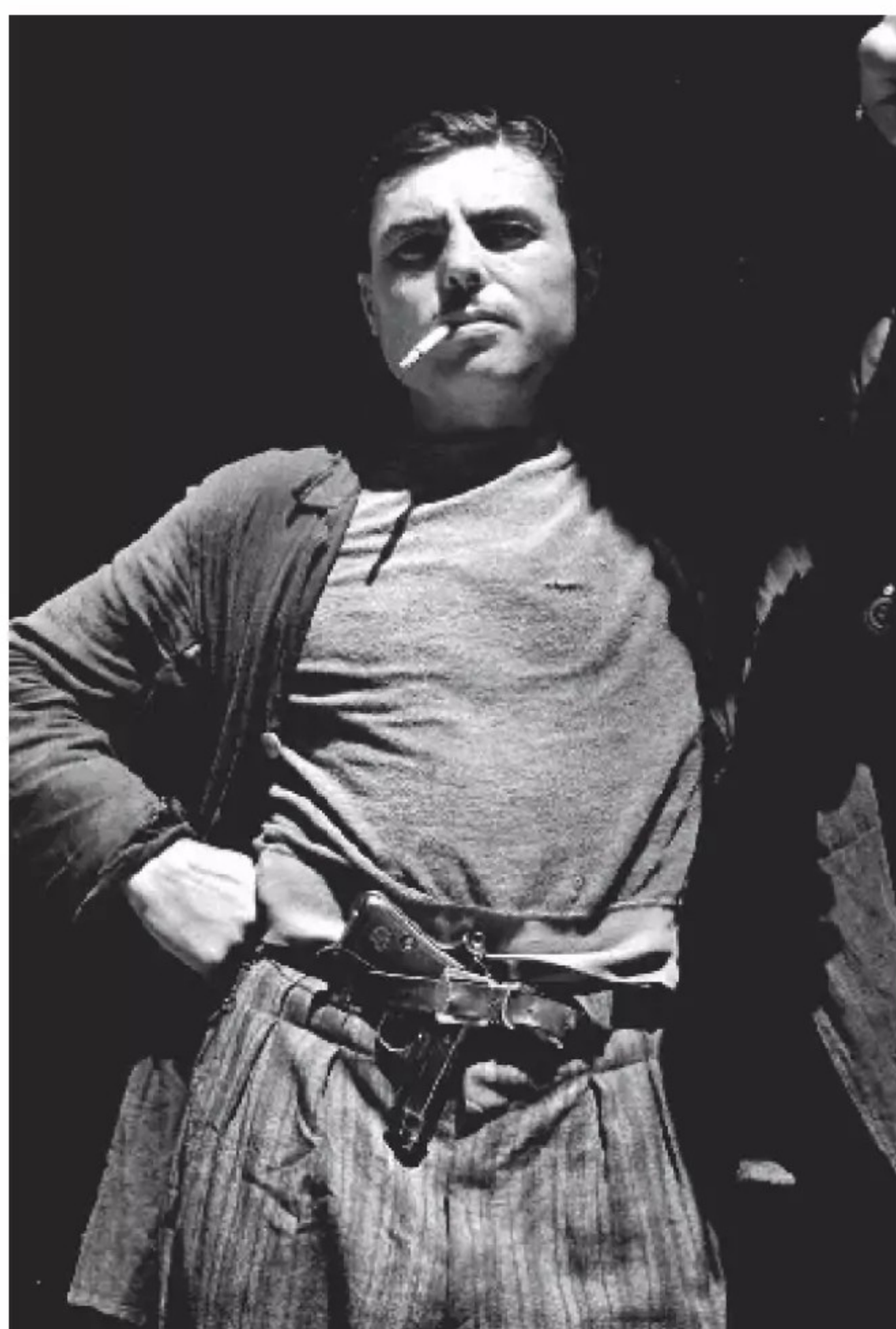


An American GI showing off what may have been his “bring back” Beretta Modello 1934 pistol. (Paul Scarlata collection)

those pistols are said to be very rare. In 1935, the Modello 1935 was produced in .32 ACP and was mainly distributed to the Italian Navy and Air Force. This model was really just a Modello 1934 in .32 ACP. I am not sure why these two branches of the Italian military were given the small caliber.

The Pistol

If I could choose one word to describe the Modello 1934 it would be “robust.” This pistol feels like you could drop it off a cliff and after dozens of hits on rock as it makes its way to the bottom, it will be ready to fire when you get down there. Being this



An Italian partisan during WWII shows off his Beretta Modello 1934 (or maybe Modello 1935). (Paul Scarlata collection)

**The Beretta Model 1934 pistol.
(Vincent L. DeNiro)**



(Vincent L. DeNiro)



Both grip panels are reinforced with sheet steel as shown on the inside of this right grip panel. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

remove them. Both grip panels are reinforced with sheet steel—interesting. Grips are lightly textured, which is framed in. The famous “PB,” for “Pietro Beretta” (the company’s founder), are on both grips.

My serial number indicates it was manufactured somewhere between 1967 and 1973. Although it is not a WWII-era-produced pistol, it is the exact same model of those used during that time period.

Range Time

When the pistol arrived, I tested it almost immediately. I loaded up some Federal 95-grain FMJ ammo and did some plinking. A big surprise: recoil

was very snappy and mildly painful at times. I shoot big bore handguns on occasion and even enjoy robust recoil, but this was different. I expected the heavy weight to absorb a lot of the felt recoil, but it didn’t. The gun bucks directly back and hits between the thumb and forefinger knuckles—not comfortable. Some additional initial observations were that the trigger

robust has its downside though; it’s not light at a little more than 23 ounces.

This is a single-action pistol with an exposed ring hammer. The half-cock position feels solid and the hammer is under a heavy spring (no issue with hard primers here). Since it has an open-top slide design, there are no issues with extractions as far as empty cases having anywhere to get hung up. The slide also features a fixed front sight and a rear sight adjustable for windage.

It incorporates a 180-degree throw safety, which is very safe to carry hammer back with a round in the chamber. A downward “flick” of the thumb takes the pistol to the fire position easily.

The pistol has a “European” magazine release, which is located at the bottom of the pistol’s grip at the rear of the magazine well. I have large hands, so the large pinky rest, as part of the seven-round magazine’s floor-plate, is appreciated. There is also a lanyard loop attached to the frame for you boaters out there.

Now for the grips. Remember when I said this pistol was “beefed up” from previous models? Well, it’s very apparent with the plastic grips IF you



DeNiro found the Beretta 1934 to be perfectly reliable. (LAD)



◀ The best group, using Federal’s 95-grain FMJ FT, measured in at 1.33 inches at 25 feet. Without the outside shot, it came in at 0.95 of an inch. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

BERETTA MODELLO 1934 PISTOL			
25 FEET - THREE FIVE-SHOT GROUPS			
Manufacturer	Weight (gr.)	Type	Average / Best (in.)
Federal	95	FMJ FT	1.56 / 1.33
ABOVE 25-YARD GROUPS WITHOUT OUTSIDE SHOT/FLYER			
Federal	95	FMJ FT	1.03 / 0.95
Fired from bench on sandbag for all shots. Conditions: 0-3 mph wind, 70 degrees F.			

is creepy, the slide is difficult to pull back unless the hammer is cocked back first, and although the slide locks back after the magazine is empty, it drops as soon as the magazine is removed—no fast reloads. Plinking on steel of various sizes out to 75 feet showed that the pistol was reasonably accurate, but an accuracy test would be in order. No malfunctions after about 100 rounds.

I set up my shooting bench with targets out to 25 feet. I changed my ammunition to Federal’s 95-grain FMJ flat-tip .380 for the accuracy test. The temperature was 70 degrees Fahrenheit with winds zero to four mph. The test would consist of three five-shots groups fired from a sandbag rest.

Taking my time, my first group measured in at 1.33 inches. Without the outside shot, the group came in at .95 of an inch—pretty nice. Empty cases eject at six o’clock and go overhead, landing three to four feet behind. Since I took my time, I really got a feel for the trigger. It was very heavy, creepy, and seemed as if there were three stages to it. It later measured in at about eight pounds. My second group came in at 1.48 inches, and the last one at 1.86. These are very acceptable, and I would say that the groups opening up gradually was due to the uncomfortable recoil and trigger. I also tried a few rounds

of a self-defense load in the form of Federal’s 99-grain Hydra-Shok. That three-shot group measured in at 1.33 inches. All ammunition fed perfectly. The Beretta 1934 is more than adequate for shooting within self-defense ranges for this caliber.

I then decided to bench my Ruger LCP just to compare felt recoil—I had never benched this pistol. Taking my time on the sandbag, the very

lightweight LCP had almost extreme muzzle flip in this position but was very comfortable otherwise. Interesting.

Disassembly

After pointing the pistol in a safe direction, removing the magazine, and making sure that the pistol is empty, pull back the slide until the safety, in the safe position, can be inserted upward into the milled-out cavity



Disassembly for maintenance is simple and straightforward. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

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The reproduction holster for the Modello 1934 pistol. (Vincent L. DeNiro)



in the slide. Then, push the barrel rearward all the way and lift from the back/chamber upward and remove it. Grab the slide, pull back slightly, then lower the safety from the milled-out

smallest caliber I would be relatively confident carrying. With the effective modern self-defense rounds offered today, .380 is very acceptable—especially as a back-up.

With the effective modern self-defense rounds offered today, .380 is very acceptable—especially as a back-up.

slot, and remove the slide by pushing it forward. The recoil spring and guide rod, as well as safety, can now be removed as well. Very easy to disassemble for cleaning and just reverse for reassembly.

Practical Use?

Well, first off, almost any surplus military pistol model was used in battle at some point. So, the answer is “yes” as far as using one for self-defense. However, many issued pistols in the first half of the 20th century were chambered in weak .32 ACP. Sure, .32 ACP out of a tiny pocket pistol is better than a golf club for self-defense, but I would only carry a .32 when a really small pistol is the only practical option (like when wearing a bathing suit and tank top to the beach). The 1934 Modello Beretta reviewed in this column is in the more powerful .380 ACP and this is the

I did strap on the military holster and carry this pistol around my property. The leather military holster is a reproduction (\$34.99 from RTI) and has the typical flap design with strap-through-metal loop “lock,” so it will keep rain and snow off of the pistol. It also sports a spare magazine holder.

While wearing it was comfortable, the weight was noticeable. On my postal scale, the model 1934 weighed one-pound, eight and one-eighth ounces empty, it is four ounces heavier than my empty Smith & Wesson 9mm Shield Plus, which feeds from a double-stack magazine. Compared to the modern .380 ACP pistol I carry from time to time, a Ruger LCP with seven-round magazine, this Beretta is about a pound heavier. Bottom line, if you are nostalgic about historic guns, you can keep the 1934 Beretta in your nightstand or take it out for a stroll, it will work just fine for self-defense



This military/police-style leather holster also has a place for a spare magazine. (Vincent L. DeNiro)

after some training with it (and after getting a modern holster). As a collector piece, it is awesome, and the price is very reasonable. Add one to your collection! **FN**

BERETTA MODELLO 1934 PISTOL	
Caliber:	9mm Corto/.380 ACP
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Barrel:	3.5 in., 1:9.84-in. twist (original)
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James Tarr felt that the trigger pull on his sample PX-9 Duty Comp had the best trigger pull of any striker-fired pistol he's ever tested since he became a gun writer. (Andy Grossman)

TISAS' PX-9 DUTY COMP PISTOL

Durability and Speed

By James Tarr

The Duty Comp is the latest model of TISAS's very successful PX-9 series, offering everything you need, plus most of what you want, at a surprisingly low price. This optics-ready, striker-fired 9mm now has a compensator, which is the big news.

This is the third generation of PX-9 pistols, and TISAS currently offers five different models of PX-9. The PX-9 is not a new design, and TISAS has been building it for various law enforcement and military agencies around the world for a few years. The PX-9 Duty Night Stalker is a full-size 9mm pistol sporting a 4.11-inch barrel. Overall, it is 7.4-inches long and 5.8-inches tall with a magazine inserted. With an empty flush magazine in place, it weighs 27.8 ounces. This is a full-size gun, built for carry (although it might be a little big for most people) and equipped with all the modern features you might want.

Interestingly, these pistols are fed by SIG P226-pattern magazines, and one flush 18-rounder and one extended 20-rounder come with the pistol. This is smart, as not only

are these proven magazines (made by Mec-Gar in this case, the kings of OEM magazines), spare magazines are available most everywhere.

Let's start with the compensator, as that's at the front, and the new feature. Technically, it is just a groove cut down through the barrel and slide, and you might think that would only qualify it as a port, not a comp, but you'd be wrong. The gases vent upward out of the port in the barrel, sure, keeping muzzle rise down, but because of how both the barrel and slide are cut, those venting gases also impinge on the slide as well. They push forward against the slide cut, and the slide itself works as the blast baffle of a compensator. I first saw this in a comped Springfield Armory Echelon, and was shocked at how well it performed. The PX-9 comp works very well too—you get more noise, but the muzzle rise has been reduced, and felt recoil is shockingly low.

Normally, I work from one end of the pistol to the other, but in this case, I'm going to make an exception, and jump straight down to the trigger. Per TISAS, this is a single-action



TISAS' new PX-9 Duty Comp adds a few new features to their proven duty pistol, most notably a comp machined into the barrel/slide. (James Tarr)



New for the PX-9 Duty Comp are improved controls, an extended magazine release and an enlarged takedown lever to use as a shooting aid. (James Tarr)

striker-fired gun—the striker is fully cocked with the slide at rest. This results in a very nice trigger pull across the entire line. The trigger on the PX-9 Duty Comp has a blue aluminum body with a flat face, and the expected safety lever in the center. These guns have always had great triggers, but I think the trigger pull on my sample PX-9 Duty Comp had the best trigger pull of any striker-fired pistol I've ever tested since I became a gun writer. Total pull weight was just 3.5 pounds, but that's only part of the story. After the short take-up, the smooth rolling break was very short (an eighth of an inch?), with near-zero overtravel. It felt like the gun had benefitted from a custom trigger job, but honestly most of the PX-9 pistols I've fired had exemplary trigger pulls, and this is just more of the same, but better.

Okay, now back to our regularly scheduled review. A couple of people got hands on this pistol, and while looking at it said various versions of, “*This looks like another pistol. Which pistol does this look like?*” I've always thought the PX-9s looked like the love child a Springfield Amory XD-M, Smith & Wesson M&P, and a Glock 17. It appears very familiar, while not looking exactly like any pistol you know.

The front sight is steel, and set back a bit on the slide to make room for the comp. It has a simple white dot on it. The rear sight is plain black and serrated. If at some



(Andy Grossman)

The comp that sets this pistol apart is milled into the barrel and slide, and the cuts in the slide help redirect the venting gases, turning what would otherwise just be a simple port into an actual compensator. (James Tarr)

point you want to swap out the sights they use standard Glock-pattern mounting.

Between the sights, the top of the slide is flat with subtle styling cuts that look good. There are wide, flat-bottomed serrations front and rear on the slide, and at the front they



Showing just how short the trigger pull is: at rest, slack taken up, and trigger fully pulled. (James Tarr)

TISAS' PX-9 DUTY COMP PISTOL



The PX-9 pistols are on their third generation, and the Duty Comp's slide has clean lines and just the right amount of slide serrations. (James Tarr)



Tarr really likes the texturing and serrations on the slide—they are both functional and look good. The front sight is set back a little to make room for the comp. (James Tarr)



There is texturing on the right side of the frame for left-handed shooters. The slide and barrel have a Tenifer QPQ finish, which is a nitrocarburizing finish which is corrosion resistant. (James Tarr)



The cover plate is textured to match the slide. Underneath, the slide is cut for direct mounting of optics which use the Trijicon RMR footprint. (James Tarr)

cut into the top corner of the slide after a gap, adding a bit of style in addition to more gripping surface. I think they look really good, and when combined with the compensator really make this pistol stand out. The slide and barrel have a Tenifer QPQ finish for good corrosion resistance.

Forward of the rear sight is an aluminum plate with texturing to match the slide. Remove the plate and you'll see the slide is cut to accept optics using the Trijicon RMR footprint. That footprint includes the Trijicon RMR and SRO, but also a lot of other optics, including a few popular (and less expensive) options from Holosun, etc.

Inside the slide you'll see the standard tilting barrel with an integral ramp. The PX-9, like so many 9mms these days, is equipped with a dual spring recoil system. The dual-spring setup spreads the recoil impulse out, and the advantage of two springs is that if one starts to fail, you've got a second. TISAS makes PX-9s for military and police contracts, and those guns get abused and neglected—a dual recoil spring system is designed to last for the life of the gun.

There is a pivoting loaded chamber indicator atop the slide. Also inside the slide is a striker block drop safety. When the striker is cocked you can see the tip of it at the

rear of the slide. It has a red dot painted on it. When the striker is forward, neither it nor the dot are visible.

The various PX-9 Duty models are very similar, but there are small differences. The slide stop on this model is the same as others I've seen, but they've added a small protective ridge around it on the frame, to help prevent unwanted activation. The takedown lever on this gun is completely new. It is much wider, and features a checkered angled ledge meant for the thumb of your left hand. I used it while shooting, and you can apply some downward pressure on it, helping to reduce recoil even more.

The rear sight is plain black and serrated. When the striker is cocked, as seen here, it protrudes very slightly from the rear of the slide and has a red tip. (James Tarr)





Tarr mounted a Nightstick TCM-10 to the pistol, and it fit perfectly on the four-slot rail, the end of the light flush with the end of the barrel. (James Tarr)

That big steel lever makes takedown for cleaning even easier, although interestingly you don't rotate it until it's straight down but actually a bit past that, so the takedown lever is angled slightly toward the muzzle. Just keep pushing it forward until it stops, even if that doesn't look quite right.

At the front of the frame, you'll see a four-slot MIL STD M1913 "Picatinny" rail for mounting lights. Most lights should fit on it. I mounted a Nightstick TCM-10 to the pistol, and it fit perfectly, the end of the light flush with the end of the barrel. The serial number is etched into a steel plate set into the center of the rail.

While the frame is long, it is not especially thick, so unless you've got tiny hands you won't have any problems with the reach to the trigger. The large backstrap doesn't add a noticeable amount of size under the web of your hand, it adds a larger hump farther down, where it will be in the hollow of your palm. I wish more manufacturers would add material to the web area in their large backstraps, to change the reach to the trigger, but few do. Because of the way the PX-9s backstrap installs, sliding straight up, TISAS could have a curve of plastic come up beneath the frame if they wanted. Hint hint.



The PX-9 Duty Comp doesn't just have interchangeable backstraps, but also interchangeable side panels. (TISAS USA)

There is texturing all over the grip and forward on the frame above the front of the trigger guard. If you're a lefty you don't have a nice checkered takedown lever for your thumb, but you do have a big patch of texturing. There is texturing on the front of the trigger guard, on the frame above the front of the trigger guard, on the front strap, the grip panels, and the backstrap. There is also a single finger groove on the frame just under the trigger guard. The pistol didn't move in my hand while shooting...but I still wish the texturing on the grip was more aggressive.

The PX-9 doesn't just have interchangeable backstraps, but also interchangeable side panels. TISAS provides three different size backstraps and side panels, and you can mix and match (a small left panel with a large right panel and a medium backstrap, for example) for a total 27 different grip variations. Removing one pin allows you to slide the backstrap off (down), and once that's out the grip panels slide to the rear. With this pistol you also get an aluminum magazine well that slides into place. It is quite sizeable, not suitable for carry, but it will definitely speed up your reloads—and it looks cool, which is always important. If you were planning on using this gun in a home defense role, there's no reason not to attach the mag well and stuff the extended magazine in there.

TISAS provides a punch to remove the backstrap pin, and all sorts of other accessories, something I wish more gun manufacturers did. With this pistol you get a trigger



With the pistol you get everything seen here—two magazines, an aluminum magazine well, holster, cleaning tools, trigger lock, backstraps and grip panels, and a magazine loader, all in a lockable case. (James Tarr)

TISAS' PX-9 DUTY COMP PISTOL



Provided with the pistol is a minimalist inside-the-waist-band holster which covers the trigger guard and rail. The metal clip can pivot a bit for a more comfortable fit. (James Tarr)



With the Duty Comp you get a checkered enlarged take-down lever, and a checkered extended (reversible) magazine release. There's also a small shelf around the slide stop not seen in previous PX-9 models. (James Tarr)

lock, magazine loader, bore brush, cleaning rod, push pin, one 18- and one 20-round magazine, aluminum magazine well, three sets of backstraps and grip panels, holster, and owner's manual, all in foam cutouts inside a lockable case.

The polymer holster is a minimalist design, covering the trigger guard and frame rail and not much else. It is an IWB (inside the waistband) model equipped with a steel clip that can pivot a little bit back and forth to adjust your cant. You could use it for appendix carry if you're one of those people. I wouldn't stick a striker-fired gun with a short, 3.5-pound trigger pull and no manual safety down the front of my pants, but maybe I've got more to live for.

Another new feature of this pistol is the extended magazine release. Other PX-9s sport magazine release buttons that don't extend past the grip much at all. The PX-9 Duty Comp's magazine release has a slightly extended button, steel and checkered, that makes the button a little easier to reach. It does not protrude so much that you'll worry about accidentally depressing it and dropping a magazine, though. The magazine catch is also reversible.

TISAS is an acronym and thus properly capitalized. TISAS stands for Trabzon Silah Sanayi AŞ, and was founded in 1993 in Trabzon, Turkey. Trabzon is on the Black Sea

coast of Turkey, and this area is home to a lot of small and medium manufacturing. I've been there, visiting another firearms manufacturer (Sarsilmaz). These companies are all using top-of-the-line three-, four-, and five-axis CNC machines, no different than firearms manufacturers anywhere else in the world—CNC machines don't know what country they're in. TISAS can afford to sell these pistols at lower prices because the cost of living in Turkey (and thus salaries) is less than half of what it is in the U.S.

A compensator will vent more exhaust into your line of sight—that's how it works, sending gases upward to reduce muzzle rise. How much of those gases you notice will have much more to do with the ammo you're using than anything else. Inexpensive/bulk/surplus ammunition usually is loaded with the dirtiest gunpowder out there, and with it there's a much better chance you're going to get flame or smoke. I first took this pistol out to an indoor range for some accuracy testing, and also to see how much of a flamethrower the comp was. The answer—not much of one. Shooting inexpensive Magtech and Winchester "white box" 115-grain FMJs I got smoke, but no flash—at least that I could see. But the interesting thing is this—when I took that same ammo and shot it outside in direct sunlight for "action shots" for this article, the expensive camera was able to pick up big flashes of flame. However, I couldn't see them with the naked eye, they were too quick.

More expensive ammo is usually loaded with better, cleaner burning powder. Most premium defensive ammunition is loaded with low-flash powder or gunpowder treated with flash suppressant, so you don't get any distracting fireworks in front of your eyes if you find yourself in the middle of a defensive shooting. If you're running a carry gun with a compensator/ports, I highly recommend ammo like that for your daily carry. I know some people load FMJ ammo in their carry gun, but they shouldn't, there's absolutely no good reason for it.

At the range, I was shooting the PX-9 alongside another gun I had to test, a Glock clone with a typical Glock trigger, a bit long and six pounds in weight. That clone's trigger pull was unremarkable...until I compared it to the PX-9's

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TISAS' PX-9 DUTY COMP PISTOL



Tarr’s best group with the Duty Comp was this 1.6-inch five-shot group done with Nosler’s ASP JHP ammo. (James Tarr)

trigger. Compared to the PX-9, a traditional striker-fired pistol’s trigger pull is hot garbage. The great trigger allowed me to shoot up to the pistol’s potential. And made range time a lot more fun—when you’re not saddled with a long, heavy, gritty trigger pull, it makes you happier. Good trigger pulls lower blood pressure.

I didn’t have an uncomped PX-9 on hand to compare, to see how much the comp reduced muzzle rise, but at ten yards, at full recoil, the front sight of the pistol did not come off a silhouette target.

I’ve seen the PX-9 Duty Comp referred to as a “budget duty gun,” and maybe the base model PX-9 is, but all the extra features on the Duty Comp really elevate it to something more. **FN**



Takedown is quick and easy. The dual recoil spring setup should last for tens of thousands of rounds. (James Tarr)

TISAS PX-9 DUTY COMP PISTOL ACCURACY TEST					
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Best / Avg. Group (in.)
Magtech steel case FMJ	115	1,160	37	23	2.9 / 3.7
Winchester FMJ	115	1,157	41	20	2.8 / 3.6
Hornady Critical Defense	115	1,121	28	15	2.7 / 3.2
Nosler ASP JHP	124	1,104	32	14	1.6 / 2.6
Winchester Train & Defend	147	921	36	23	2.5 / 3.0

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.



(Andy Grossman)

TISAS PX-9 DUTY COMP PISTOL	
Type:	Single-action striker-fired semi-auto
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	18+1
Barrel Length:	4.11 in., ported
Overall Length:	7.4 in.
Height:	5.8 in.
Width:	1.3 in.
Weight:	27.8 oz. (unloaded, no magazine)
Slide Material:	Steel, Tenifer finish
Frame Material:	Polymer
Safeties:	Striker block safety, trigger safety
Sights:	Steel, white dot front
Trigger:	3.5 lbs. (as tested)
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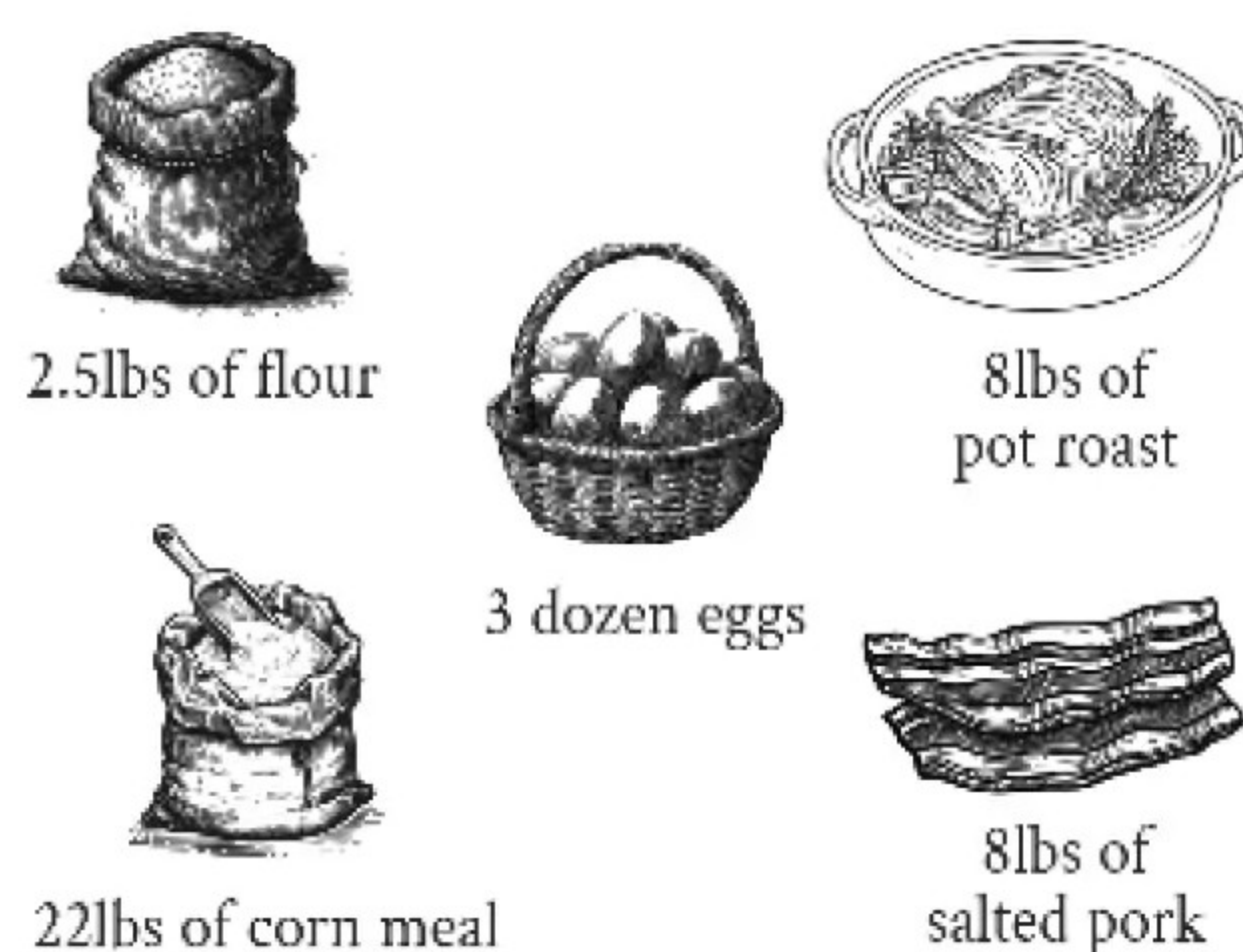
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RUGER'S

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Ruger's new 10mm Auto LC Carbine is a compact and handy piece suitable for personal protection, recreational shooting and fun. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

LC CARBINE GOES 10MM!

You Asked for It and Now Ruger Has Chambered Their Popular LC Carbine in 10mm Auto, but How Does It Perform?

By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor

A few years back, Ruger caught the attention of shooters when they introduced their compact, and modern-looking LC Carbine chambered in FN's 5.7x28mm. Ruger single-handedly breathed new life into the seemingly stagnant 5.7x28mm cartridge. Next, Ruger expanded their LC Carbine line in 2024 with a slightly updated model chambered for the classic big-bore .45 ACP. Much more modern in appearance, compared to their more traditional PC carbine, the LC Carbine again turned heads. Now, Ruger is back, shaking things up again with another new offering in their ever expanding LC Carbine line, this time chambered for the hard-hitting 10mm Auto cartridge. Many shooters have been asking Ruger to offer the LC Carbine in 10mm Auto, and they listened.

My own interest in the 10mm Auto cartridge was sparked many moons ago reading Jeff Cooper's thoughts in our sister title *Guns & Ammo* magazine. Designed when FMJ projectiles were still de rigueur for personal protection, it was intended to be the "perfect" defensive handgun cartridge. Thinking at the time that a .40-caliber 200-grain FMJ launched at 1,200 fps would provide an edge in terminal performance over existing cartridges like the .38 Special, 9mm Parabellum, and .45 ACP. Plus, the .40-caliber design would provide increased capacity over the larger diameter .45 ACP.

Without a doubt, the 10mm Auto set the shooting community on fire when it was introduced way back in 1983. Not everything went smoothly though, which could have spelt the end for the new cartridge. While Dornaus & Dixon's Bren Ten pistol was a business disaster, the 10mm Auto cartridge was too good to die with it. Norma, of Sweden, had stepped up to the plate and produced

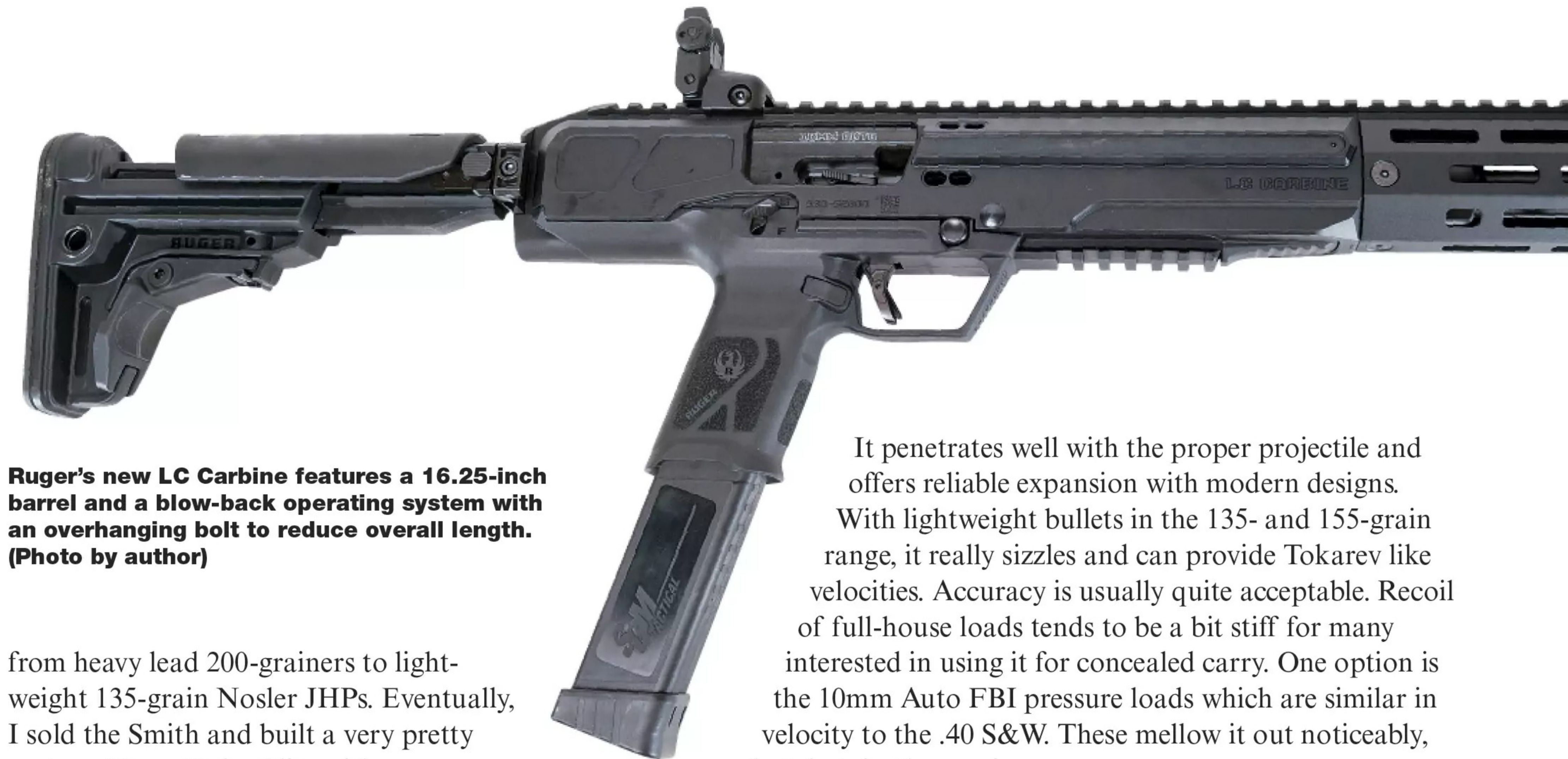
ammunition and both Colt and Smith & Wesson introduced handguns. It wasn't long before none other than the FBI took note of the cartridge. They adopted it in 1989 and fielded it along with Smith & Wesson 1076 pistols. The FBI's adoption led a number of police departments around the country to follow suit. [EDITOR'S NOTE: The FBI choosing the 10mm was so influential that HK manufactured MP5 submachine guns in 10mm. This followed Auto Ordnance manufacturing 10mm-chambered Thompson submachine guns at the FBI's request.]

I purchased a Smith & Wesson 10mm 1076 pistol around 1991, had some work done to it, and spent countless hours behind my reloading press rolling up a variety of loads. I tested various bullet weights and configurations



Ruger originally introduced the LC Carbine chambered in 5.7x28mm while this new introduction fires the hard hitting 10mm Auto. (Photo by author)

RUGER'S LC CARBINE GOES 10MM!



Ruger's new LC Carbine features a 16.25-inch barrel and a blow-back operating system with an overhanging bolt to reduce overall length. (Photo by author)

from heavy lead 200-grainers to lightweight 135-grain Nosler JHPs. Eventually, I sold the Smith and built a very pretty custom 10mm Delta Elite with a carry comp. I never could get it totally reliable though. The FBI eventually dropped the 10mm Auto in favor of .40 S&W, and I did the same.

For a time, it seemed like the 10mm Auto was headed for the history books, but it proved just too damn good to lie down and die. It retained a faithful following who loved its accuracy, exterior and terminal ballistics. Outdoorsmen and hunters in particular appreciated the cartridge, and the level of performance it offered in an auto-loading handgun.

Eventually, the 10mm Auto found a niche it could call its own, and both sales and interest in it have steadily increased over the years. Today, a new generation of shooters, not old enough to remember its genesis or fall from grace are embracing it. I never lost that spark for the 10mm Auto. It has many wonderful qualities. It can drive fairly heavy bullets fast enough for hunting medium game.

It penetrates well with the proper projectile and offers reliable expansion with modern designs. With lightweight bullets in the 135- and 155-grain range, it really sizzles and can provide Tokarev like velocities. Accuracy is usually quite acceptable. Recoil of full-house loads tends to be a bit stiff for many interested in using it for concealed carry. One option is the 10mm Auto FBI pressure loads which are similar in velocity to the .40 S&W. These mellow it out noticeably, but do take the magic away.

Why 10mm Auto in a pistol caliber carbine like this new Ruger? It has long been popular to have a long gun that fires the same ammunition as your sidearm. This has been widespread with American sportsman, hunters and adventurers since the 19th Century, especially in the old West. The Winchester 1873 and 1892 lever-actions were hugely popular due to this capability (many were chambered in .44-40). In the modern era, it makes economic sense if you have a 9mm pistol to also have a 9mm pistol caliber carbine. It only follows that owners of 10mm Auto handguns will find a 10mm carbine appealing.

Even so, the 10mm Auto from a carbine is interesting enough to be desirable even if you do not own a 10mm Auto handgun. It offers a noticeable step-up in performance over the 9mm Parabellum and can drive bullets weighing from 115 to 220 grains. On the lighter side of the scale, Lehigh



The 10mm Auto has a cult following and is especially popular with outdoorsman looking for more performance over standard service pistol cartridges. (Photo by author)



The original LC Carbine was chambered for the bottleneck high velocity small-bore 5.7x28mm cartridge seen here. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)



The LC Carbine is fairly compact but weighs a bit more than the original model in 5.7x28mm. (Photo by author)

Defense offers a 115-grain monolithic copper solid with an advertised velocity of 1,700 fps from a five-inch barrel. This generates 738 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

On the opposite end of the scale, Buffalo Bore offers a 220-grain hard cast flat nose Outdoorsman load that has an advertised muzzle velocity of 1,200 fps from a five-inch handgun. This load generates 703 ft-lbs. of energy at the muzzle. From a carbine's longer barrel, both of these loads will pick up velocity and hit even harder. However, depending upon the load, velocity gained from a 16-inch barrel may not be as much as some expect.

If you enjoy time spent at your press, it's an easy cartridge to handload. Today, unlike in 1991 when I was first playing with it, there are a host of modern projectiles to choose from. A number of powders work well with it, plus dies

and data are all readily available. You can load it very mild to make it pleasant to shoot on the range. Or, you always have the option of loading it heavy for hunting, personal protection or recreational shooting.

To find out how well the new Ruger performs, I had them send a 10mm Auto LC Carbine on temporary loan for review in *Firearms News*. This allowed me to examine and test it on the range to form an opinion to share with you. There is growing interest in 10mm Auto chambered pistol caliber carbines (PCC) today, so I was interested to see what this new Ruger brings to the table.

The heart of the carbine is a blocky looking receiver. The design utilizes an over-hanging bolt to reduce the receiver's overall length and is similar in concept to the well-known UZI submachine gun. Also, like the UZI, the magazine well is located in the grip for easy "hand to hand" reloading. The non-reciprocating charging handle comes from the factory on the left side, but it can be reversed to the right side if the owner so chooses. The controls are similar to the Ruger-5.7 pistol and include ambidextrous manual safety levers.

The first question many will ask is, "What magazine did Ruger chose to feed their new 10mm

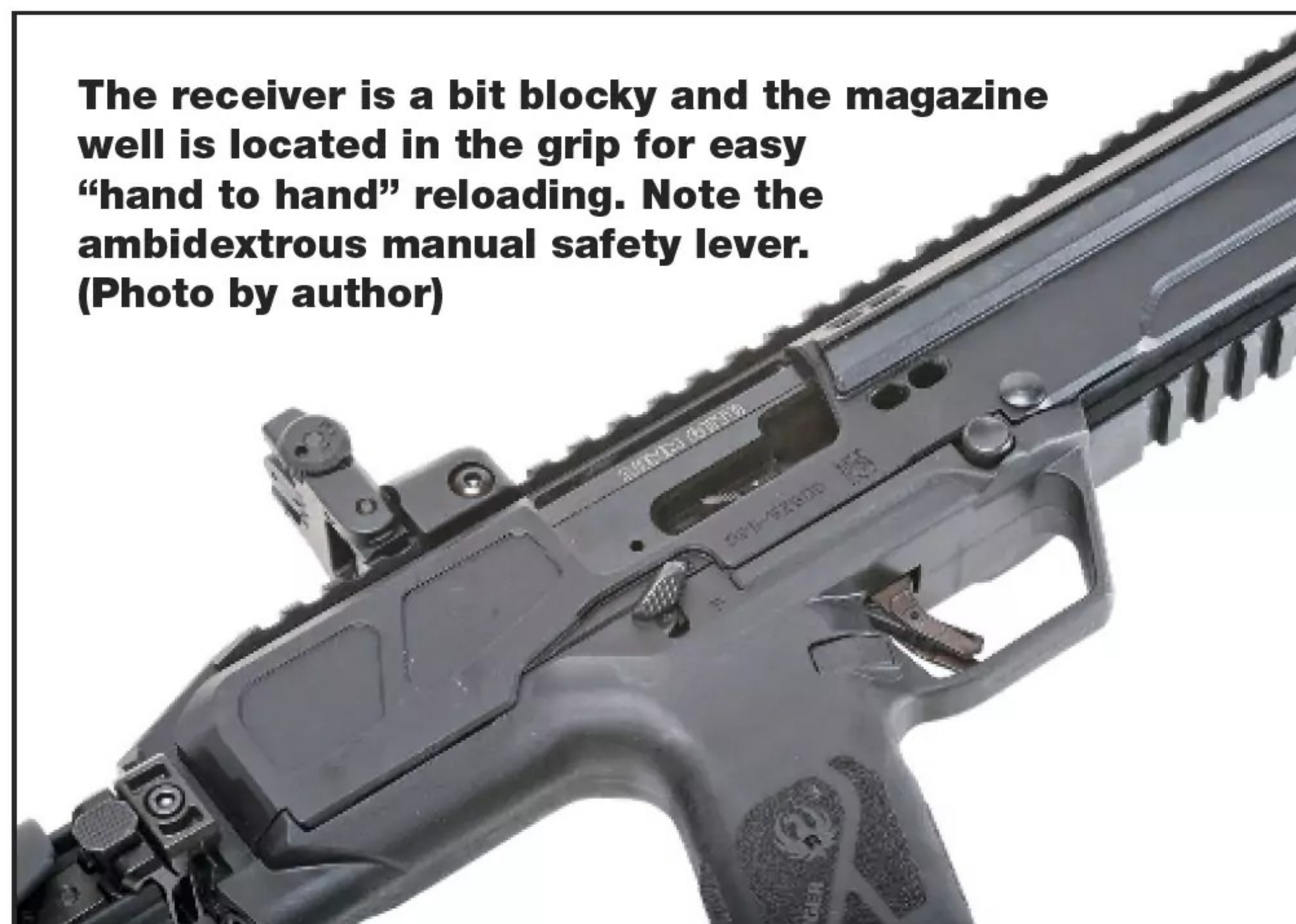


The 10mm Auto LC Carbine is a lightweight carbine which handles well. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

RUGER'S LC CARBINE GOES 10MM!



The muzzle of the 16.2-inch barrel is threaded and the handguard features M-LOK slots and a full-length MIL STD 1913 rail at 12 O'clock. (Photo by author)



The receiver is a bit blocky and the magazine well is located in the grip for easy "hand to hand" reloading. Note the ambidextrous manual safety lever. (Photo by author)



The controls are similar to the Ruger-5.7 pistol and include ambidextrous manual safety levers, a bolt release lever on the left side and a magazine release. (Photo by author)



The Ruger features a side-folding stock which noticeably reduces its overall length for easy storage. (Photo by author)

Auto LC Carbine with?" This simple question is extremely important to many. The good news is Ruger selected readily available Glock pattern magazines. My review sample came with one 30-round polymer magazine. These are robust, reliable, fairly easy to load, and economical to buy. The magazine is a double-column design with single-position feeding and witness holes are provided on the back. Factory Glock or aftermarket magazines may be utilized.

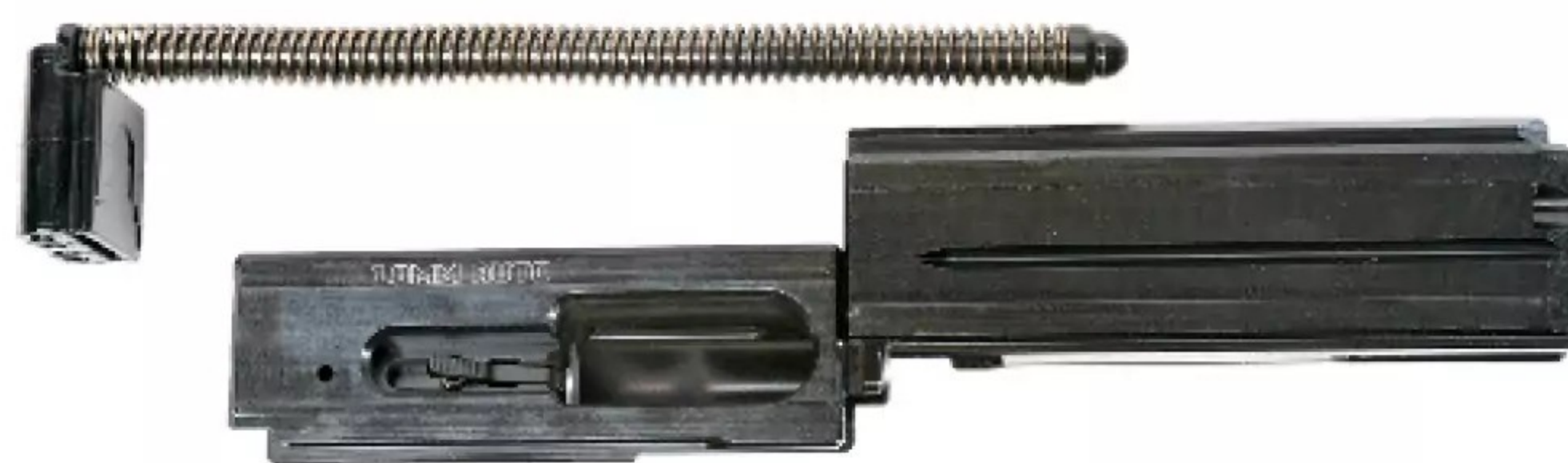
Ruger selected a simple blow-back operating system and paired it with their familiar Secure Action fire-control system. This features a protected internal hammer with a bladed-safety trigger design. A pre-cocked double-action design, the hammer is partially cocked by the slide, but pulling the trigger brings it back slightly to full-cock before releasing it. Trigger pull on this design has some sponginess in its initial take-up and a bit of a heavy break. Reset is distinct but a bit long.

At the rear of the receiver is a MIL STD 1913 rail section onto which a side-folding buttstock attaches. This multi-position collapsible stock provides a length of pull running from 12.6 to 14.6 inches. The design is reversible and standard AR-pattern stocks will fit onto the Ruger's tube. The stock features a rubber pad to keep the butt

from sliding around on your shoulder as well as multiple sling mounting points. If you prefer a different folding stock, the LC Carbine will accept aftermarket stocks which attach to a MIL STD 1913 Picatinny rail. So, there are plenty of options available on the aftermarket.

The 10mm Auto LC Carbine's barrel is 16.2 inches in length. The muzzle features a .578"x28 TPI thread pitch which is covered by a muzzle nut. The barrel features six groove rifling and a one turn in 16 inches right hand rifling twist. This rifling twist rates facilitates a wide range of bullet weights from light to heavy. For corrosion resistance, the barrel is nitride treated.

Surrounding the barrel is a CNC-milled M-LOK handguard. This is Type III hard-coat anodized aluminum and



The bolt (at left) dovetails to a large and heavy weight (seen partially slid on here). Also note the captured recoil spring assembly with buffer. (Photo by author)



Ruger's LC Carbine strips easily for cleaning and maintenance by pushing one captured pin out. Note the Glock pattern 30-round magazine. (Photo by author)

it features M-LOK slots on seven sides. The handguard is an improvement over the original design introduced on the 5.7x28mm model. The more numerous M-LOK slots allow easy mounting of accessories.

Running the full length of the top of the carbine is a MIL STD 1913 "Picatinny" rail. This full-length rail makes mounting optics or iron sights a snap. The carbine weighs 7.4 pounds and its overall length with the stock folded is only 22.5 inches. With the stock unfolded but fully collapsed the overall length measures 28.7 inches.

The 10mm Auto LC Carbine comes with Ruger's Rapid Deploy flip-up polymer sights. These consist of a protected front post adjustable for elevation and a protected rear aperture adjustable for windage. If you prefer, you can mount a red dot, magnified optic, night vision or thermal unit. The LC Carbine comes with one Glock-pattern 30-round magazine, M-LOK QD sling socket and hex wrenches for disassembly.

Having tested both earlier models in 5.7x28mm and .45 ACP, I was interested to see if the 10mm Auto model would behave much differently. Handling it, I noticed rounds load easily into the magazine, and the magazine locks securely into place with a simple upward push. The 10mm Auto LC carbine features ambidextrous 1911-style safety levers and these are well-placed and easy to manipulate. On the left side, just to the front of the safety lever, is a pistol-style bolt catch/release. This can be used to lock the bolt to the rear or release it.

On the right side of the receiver, forward of the trigger, is a round button, which acts as a bolt release. This is very well-placed allowing easy operation with the trigger finger. The mag release is on the right side of the pistol grip and easy to manipulate. The charging handle does not require a great deal of force to operate and the carbine is comfortable to shoot. The trigger is a bit mushy and heavier than I'd prefer. While certainly serviceable, it is my only gripe.



Five different 10mm Auto loads were used during testing, weighing from 124 to 205 grains. (Photo by author)



The LC Carbine would be a good companion to a 10mm Auto handgun like this Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 seen here. (Photo by Michelle Hamilton)

RUGER'S LC CARBINE GOES 10MM!



The LC Carbine comes with folding sights and these worked well during testing. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)



While PCC's and handguns in 9mm Parabellum, like this Springfield Armory Kuna are less expensive to shoot, the 10mm Auto packs more punch. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)



The LC Carbine is easy to shoot from either shoulder. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

Due to its design, the 10mm Auto LC carbine is very easy to accessorize and personalize. It's very easy to add a sling, optical sight, white light and other accessories. As the muzzle is threaded, it's also very easy to mount a muzzle brake, flash suppressor or sound suppressor. The Ruger 10mm Auto LC carbine is a prime candidate to suppress as both subsonic and supersonic loads are available.

To check Ruger's 10mm Auto LC Carbine's performance, I collected five different loads. The first is a modern lightweight 124-grain solid copper spun projectile from Fort Scott. This is not designed to expand but is claimed to have a very early yaw cycle to disrupt tissue. Unlike a hollow point, it cannot become plugged and is designed to work well through barriers. The next is Hornady's 175-grain FlexLock from their Critical Duty line. From Remington, I selected their 180-grain FMJ load from their



The LC Carbine is fairly compact with the stock folded, and easy to carry. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)



Practical accuracy of the LC Carbine is good and it proved a comfortable and fun piece to shoot. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)



Federal's 205-grain Syntech Range load averaged four inches for four five-shot groups fired at 100 yards. (Photo by author)



Remington's 180-grain UMC FMJ load averaged a respectable 3.7 inches for four five-shot groups at 100 yards. (Photo by author)



Fort Scott's 124-grain Solid Copper Spun load sizzled with an average velocity of 1,934 fps! (Photo by author)

UMC line. From Federal I selected their 200-grain Solid Core with Syntech Jacket and their 205-grain Syntech Range load. These five loads were intended to both check the LC Carbine's accuracy and reliability.

Accuracy testing was conducted from off a bag on my bench. I would expect most who buy an LC Carbine will outfit it with some type of red dot sight, so I added an Aimpoint T1 red dot. A quick zero on a steel silhouette, and I got to work. Testing was then conducted at 100 yards

with four five-shot groups fired with each load and velocity measured using a LabRadar Doppler chronograph.

The Ruger was fun to fire from the bench and accuracy was consistent. Best 100-yard accuracy was obtained using Federal Premium's 200-grain Solid Core Syntech load which averaged 3.2 inches at 1,305 fps. Hornady's 175-grain Critical Duty FlexLock load was right behind it though averaging 3.5 inches at 1,214 fps. Remington's 180-grain UMC FMJ load averaged 3.7 inches at 1,245 fps and Federal's Syntech Range 205-grain load averaged four inches at 1,279 fps.

RUGER 10MM AUTO LC CARBINE				
100-YARD ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART				
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	SD	Group (in.)
Fort Scott Solid Copper Spun	124	1,934	11.4	6.5
Hornady FlexLock	175	1,214	17.4	3.5
Remington UMC FMJ	180	1,245	12.9	3.7
Federal Premium Solid Core Syntech	200	1,305	20.1	3.2
Federal Syntech Range	205	1,279	8.2	4.0
Groups are an average of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity readings recorded using a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 70 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.				

As you can see, standard 10mm Auto loads do not gain a great deal of velocity in the longer barrel compared to a standard five-inch handgun. As an example, Hornady's 175-grain Critical Duty load averaged 1,152 fps from a Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 10mm pistol. In comparison, the LC Carbine gained just 62 fps with this load. On the flipside, Fort Scott's 124-grain Solid Copper Spun solid averaged 6.5 inches at 100 yards at a blistering 1,934 fps. This load exhibited some



Reloads were fast and empty mags ejected with the push of a button. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

vertical stringing in its groups, but really zipped. Recoil was a bit heavier than with say Hornady’s 175-grain Critical Duty load. Function was flawless with all of these loads.

Moving from the bench, I ran the LC Carbine through some drills on steel at 25 and 50 yards. I noted the recoil to be similar to the .45 ACP LC carbine, allowing fast follow-up shots. It moves around a bit, but not bad. I noted it shouldered quickly, swung fast and pressing the trigger provided a nice “THWOK” on the steel. I ran drills both using the factory iron sights and with a red dot.

The carbine is comfortable in the hands, the stock adjusts easily and it’s easy to fold. The pistol-like controls are straight-forward to understand and employ. Reloading is fast. Practical accuracy is very good for a pistol caliber carbine. It proved capable of making rapid multiple hits at the distances you would envision employing it at in a realistic personal protection scenario. I suppose more importantly to some is, it’s fun to shoot. It’s fun enough with that 30-round magazine you will wish 10mm Auto ammunition was cheaper!

It folds up into a fairly short package for stowing in a backpack. Retrieving it from a pack it is fairly quick to unfold the stock, chamber a round and put into action. It can be fired with the stock folded if needed. The LC Carbine shines at distances out to 100 yards. However, plinking on the range will show that it is fully capable of making hits on a man-sized target at 150 and 200 yards if you do your part and know your drop in trajectory. Just remember, as velocity drops off, so does terminal performance. While the 10mm Auto offers a step-up in performance compared to other traditional service pistol cartridges, like the 9mm, it is by no means a rifle. PCCs are fun and useful, but if you *need* a rifle, reach for an honest-to-God rifle.



A fresh round is fed into the chamber as a fired case is ejected. No issues were encountered throughout testing. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

Throughout testing, Ruger’s 10mm Auto LC Carbine performed well with no issues. MSRP is \$1,049, which is not bad for a pistol caliber carbine chambered in 10mm Auto. Ruger’s 5.7x28mm LC Carbine ignited a lot of interest and I suspect their new 10mm Auto version will as well, just for different reasons. It’s a perfect match for 10mm Auto handguns and certainly adds a bit more thump compared to a 9mm. If you like the 10mm Auto cartridge, the new Ruger might be very appealing.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this article, we’d love to hear them. Email us at FirearmsNews@OutdoorSG.com. **FN**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

David M. Fortier has been covering firearms, ammunition and optics since 1998. He is a recipient of the Carl Zeiss Outdoor Writer of the Year award and his writing has been recognized by the Civil Rights organization JPFO. In 2007, he covered the war in Iraq as an embedded journalist.

RUGER 10MM AUTO LC CARBINE SPECIFICATIONS	
Caliber:	10mm Auto
Operation:	Blowback
Barrel Length:	16.25 in.
Barrel Twist:	1:16 inches, RH twist
Trigger:	Secure Action Double-Action
Feed:	Detachable 30-round Glock pattern box magazine
Overall Length:	22.7 in. folded, 28.5 in. to 30.6 in. stock unfolded
Weight:	7.4 lbs.
Sights:	Protect post and adjustable rear aperture, Ruger Rapid Deploy
Finish:	Hard coat anodized and Black Nitride
MSRP:	\$1,049
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CZECHPOINT'S THE UN-AK

At the conclusion of WWII, the country of Czechoslovakia had to start over again. Unfortunately, their occupation by the Soviets meant that there was just one way to start over, and that was as part of the Warsaw Pact. The Czechs and Slovaks were expected to contribute their portion of the defense of the new “alliance.” This meant armed forces and the equipment needed. No problem, the Czechs had been making

firearms for some time, and they dove right in. The end result, in short order, was the vz. 52, a box-magazine fed carbine that was basically the pre-war idea of a rifle combined with a new cartridge, the 7.62x45.

The Czechs and Slovaks quickly found out what it meant to be members of the Warsaw Pact. Cartridges other than the accepted Soviet ones were not to be tolerated. The vz. 52s quickly became the vz. 52/57, chambered in



The muzzle brake works well; it also took some work to get a flash image. (Patrick Sweeney)

VZ. 58 RIFLE

RIFLE!

By Patrick Sweeney

7.62x39 Soviet (ditto with the vz. 52/57 machinegun). And the fixed box magazine? That wasn't going to fly, either. However, the Czech designers weren't going to just knuckle under and make '47 clones, no sirree.

Instead, they came up with the vz. 58, an AK-appearing rifle that had nothing in common with the Kalashnikov except the chambering of 7.62x39. For a while, there were parts-kits-built vz. 58s here in the USA, in 7.62x39. Which

was cool, but the days of dirt-cheap Soviet ammo are now gone, and the rifle world in America is now a 5.56 environment. So, CzechPoint, Inc., while they offer imported vz. 58s in 7.62x39, the main interest for a lot of shooters will be their updated model of the vz. 58 in 5.56. That's what we have here today.

The CzechPoint vz. 58 is a faithful reproduction of the vz. 58, with modern materials and finishes where doing

■ CZECHPOINT'S vz. 58 RIFLE

The CzechPoint vz.58 is lightweight, compact, handy and runs very well indeed. (Patrick Sweeney)



so would be better. If you've ever handled a vz. 58, the CzechPoint will be like old times, and if you haven't, then you are in for some fun times.

Okay, not an AK? Not at all. First of all, the vz. 58 works with a short-stroke piston, not a long-stroke piston and carrier like the AK. The '58 gas port taps gas out of the barrel and drives the piston, which pushes the carrier, but the piston only travels three-quarters of an inch or so before stopping, and then it gets pushed back to its starting point by its return spring.

The carrier cams the locking piece out of engagement with the receiver, and then the bolt, carrier and locking piece travel back to extract, eject and then feed the next round when traveling forward. The locking piece, or block, tips up and down. No rotation, just a hinging or tipping up and down as its mode of work. The carrier has a fixed cocking handle on the right side, which reciprocates. This was not considered a big deal back in the 1950s, because that was just the way a self-loading rifle worked. Well, except for the FAL, but that's a different story and a different international competitor to the Warsaw Pact countries.

The original design apparently had some minor issues with misfires, so an extra part, the push-down plate, installed in the carrier, was patented, and used in production. The imported vz. 58 has this, so we're good to go there.

The receiver cover contains the two springs needed, the action spring and the firing spring. Having the springs both in the cover means that the stock is simply a means of support, not part of the recoil mechanism. So, it was possible (and was done) to have a fixed stock or a folding stock, when being built or rebuilt. Also, the springs aren't loose parts, they are attached to the cover. What initiates all this? A striker. Well, it is called, in some circles, a linear hammer, but hammers pivot, and the firing parts of the vz. 58 do not pivot. The striker/linear hammer drives forward inside of the bolt and impacts the firing pin, which is held in place by the extractor.

The original vz. 58 magazines were made for 7.62x39. They were not at all interchangeable with the AK mags,



The Tactical model comes with an AR-15 stock mounted on a buffer tube (no internals, none needed) and uses an adapter to fit to the receiver. (Patrick Sweeney)

► Around 25 years ago, Editor-in-Chief of *Firearms News*, Vincent DeNiro, imported 100 vz. 58 select-fire rifles he purchased from the Czech Republic's military. These rifles, imported for restricted sales, are seen in the Title II U.S. Customs Bonded Warehouse he stored them in. (Vincent L. DeNiro)





While it outwardly seems to be kinda-sorta an AK, the vz. 58 is not. The only thing it has in common is the chambering, and then only some of them. (Patrick Sweeney)

made out of aluminum, and while they used the same kind of “hook and hinge” insertion and removal, (the mag release is a paddle just forward of the trigger guard) they would not fit an AK. Part of this was the bolt hold-open section of the magazine tube, which no AK has (or ever had) and so I would surmise that the vz. 58 mags wouldn’t even fit AK47 mag pouches, either. The CzechPoint 5.56 magazines are polymer, the same shape as the originals, and dimensioned in this case to hold 5.56 ammunition. Using a double-stack and double-feed design, they are easy to load simply by stuffing the next cartridge being loaded down between the feed lips. You’ve done it a bunch; this is the same.

So, load a magazine (the vz. 58 comes with two polymer magazines) and then what? Hook the front lip into the receiver and hinge back until it locks in place. Grasp the cocking handle, pull back until it stops, then let go. The safety is a lever on the right side of the receiver just above the trigger. When it is down and you can feel it with your trigger finger rubbing against it, it is on safe. To fire, rotate the lever until it is horizontal and out of the way. Push the

safety horizontally to fire, aim, press the trigger. Repeat as necessary until the bolt locks open. Remove the magazine and repeat.

The vz. 58 has to be 922(r) compliant to adhere to President Bush Sr.’s imported “assault weapons” ban of 1989, which is still in effect, unfortunately. This means some



The standard Soviet sidemount scope attachment base, permanently attached to the receiver. (Patrick Sweeney)



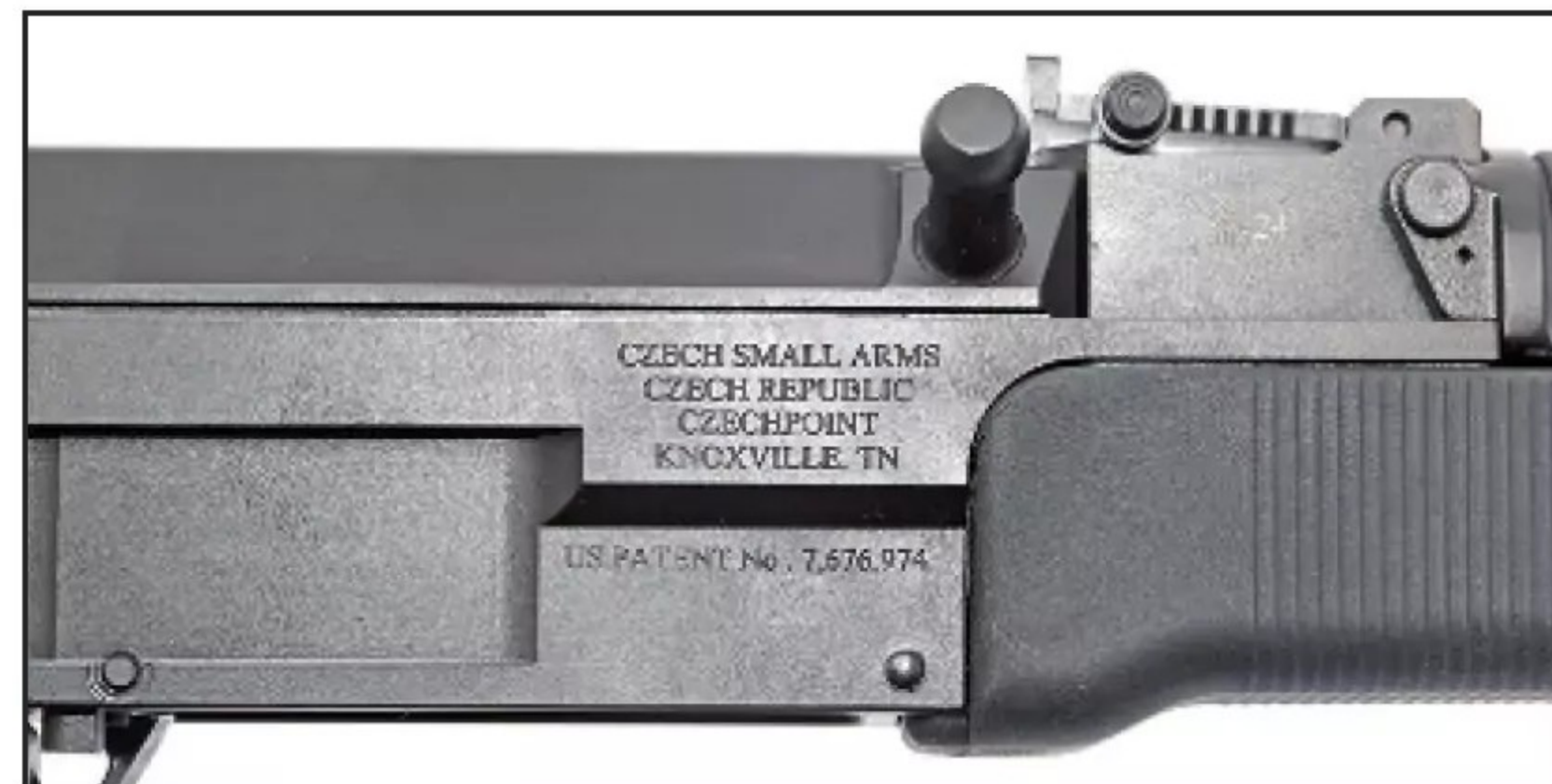
◀ **Here is the stock adapter that lets CzechPoint mount an AR-15 buffer tube and stock. (Patrick Sweeney)**

▶ **The sights are standard and ubiquitous 1950s sights as found on many rifles then and even before. (Patrick Sweeney)**





◀ The safety is a lever on the right side, and when it is horizontal (like this) it is on fire. Down is safe, and you can feel it with your trigger finger. (Patrick Sweeney)



The charging handle reciprocates with the carrier, normal for the time. The imported vz. 58 has the patented push-down plate, and the patent number on the receiver. (Patrick Sweeney)



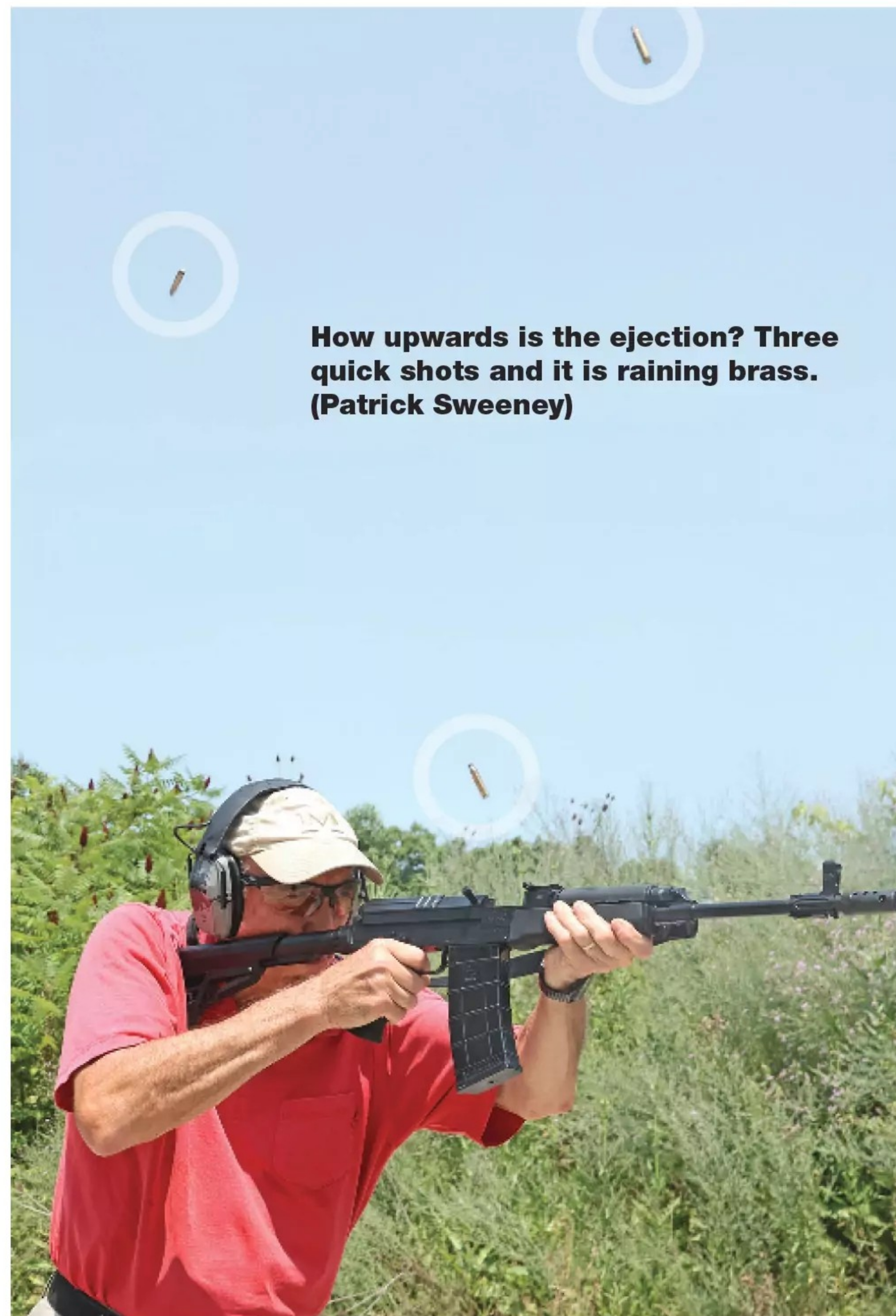
◀ The vz. 58 can be had with a muzzle brake or not. This is the brake version, and it works very well indeed. (Patrick Sweeney)

USA-made parts are needed for the rifle to be considered as “Made in USA” and not affected by the regulation.

The model sent for testing has the muzzle brake on it, and it is surprisingly good. My test fire crew one day were all USPSA Multi-Gun competitors, and they are accustomed to braked rifles. So, when shooters used to custom-tuned ARs with brakes on them comment on how flat the vz. 58 shot, you should pay attention. The sights did not lift off of the target, at least not when inside of 50 yards. For the rapid firing we tested, we didn’t try it further



The muzzle brake is effective, and the sights don’t lift off of the target. (Patrick Sweeney)



How upwards is the ejection? Three quick shots and it is raining brass. (Patrick Sweeney)



Right or left-handed doesn’t matter, because the empties go up. This one has just begun its journey. (Patrick Sweeney)



Ejection port? Really? The entire upper opens up to allow brass free exit to the rifle, its job having been done. (Patrick Sweeney)



The magazines are polymer and have a bolt hold-open tab, that rides in the offset spine on the rear of the magazine as seen here. (Patrick Sweeney)



The magazine catch is a paddle ahead of the trigger guard. (Patrick Sweeney)

than that. For being an effective brake, it wasn't very flashy, and it took some work to get even a marginally flashy image.

Since the vz. 58 was originally built for steel-cased ammo, I tried a couple of those, as well as a couple of brass-cased loads. I included the Black Hills Match load to see what the vz. 58 could do, plus the Speer Gold Dots just in case someone was interested in the vz. 58 for defense. (A good choice, by the way, both rifle and load.)

If one is intending on reloading the brass, not only does the vz. 58 eject



► Match ammo shoots well, and for iron sights at 100 yards this is good work with help from Black Hills. (Patrick Sweeney)



The vz. 58 rifle delivered the goods once you remember how the old sights work. (Patrick Sweeney)



If you are planning on using the vz. 58 for defense, then you'll be well-served with it and this load from Speer. (Patrick Sweeney)

CZECHPOINT VZ. 58 RIFLE CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA						
Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Type	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (in.) Avg. & Best
Barnaul	55	FMJ	2,700	68.2	28.0	2.6 / 2.4
Hornady Training	55	FMJ	2,776	38.3	14.9	2.5 / 2.3
Speer Personal Defense	55	GDHP	2,821	55.5	21.3	2.5 / 2.2
Black Hills Match	75	BTHP	2,461	35.8	12.9	2.2 / 1.9

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 100 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Garmin Xero chronograph.

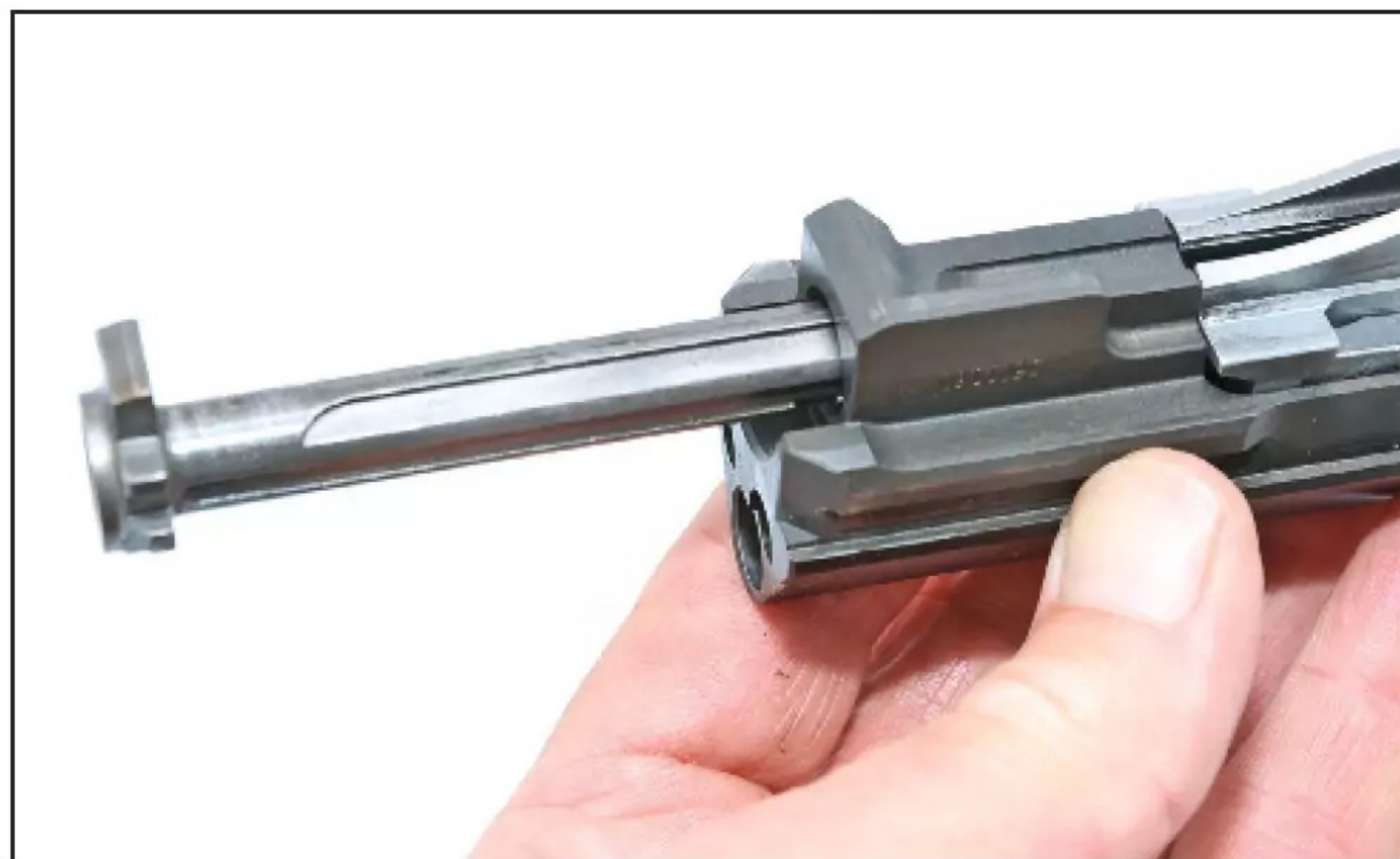


◀ To disassemble, unload and dry fire. Then push the rear pin across until it stops. (Patrick Sweeney)

▶ With the pin out, press the receiver cover in and up. (Patrick Sweeney)



The cover comes off with both springs attached to it. (Patrick Sweeney)



The linear hammer doesn't come out until you rotate it (and you'll have to line up the clearance notch by feel). (Patrick Sweeney)

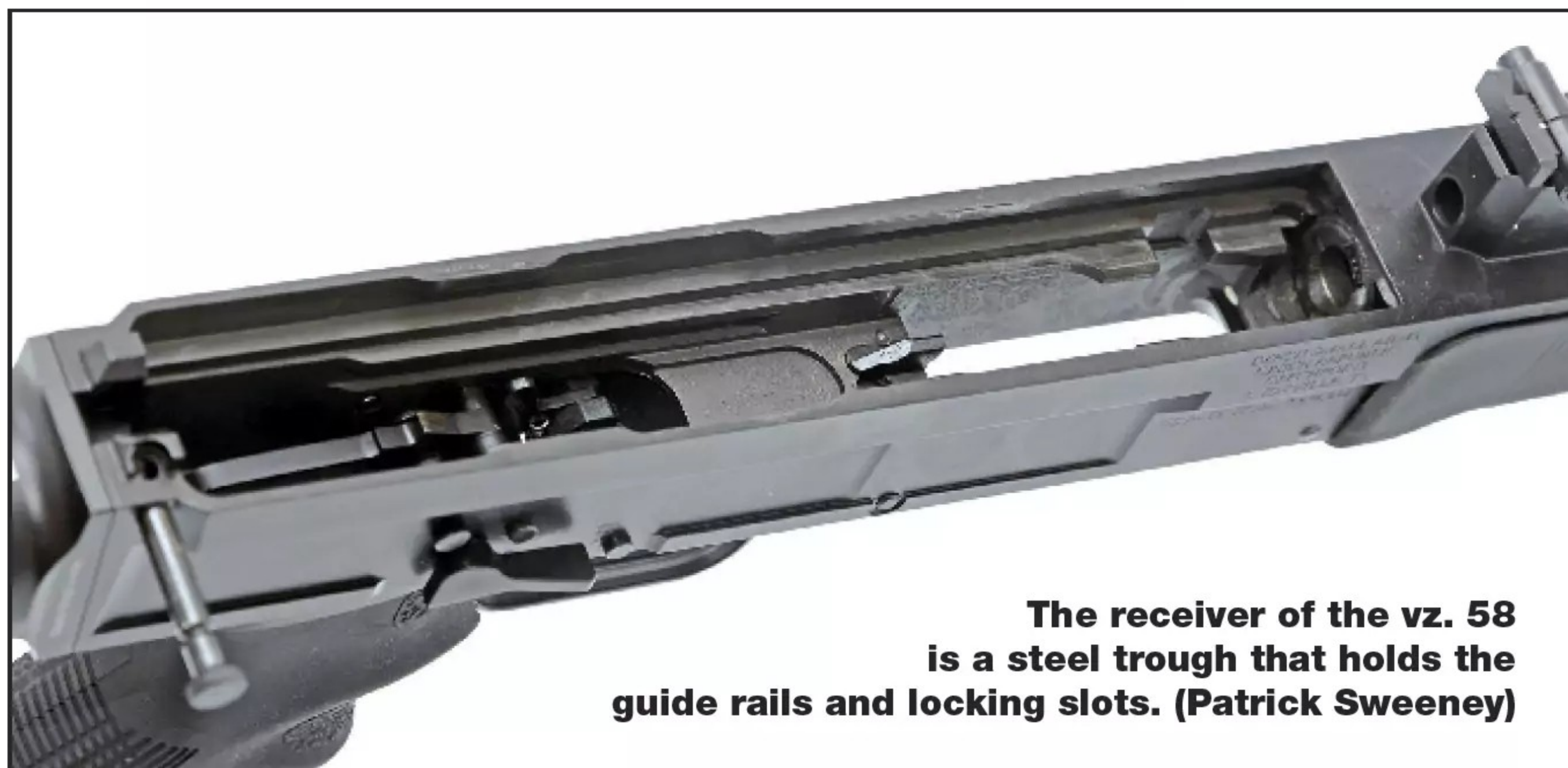
vigorously, it puts a dent in the cases as well. Nothing awful, just noticeable. One other detail regarding ejection. It was pretty much straight up, and with a good amount of velocity. I suspect that if you use the vz. 58 on an indoor range you are going to have fired empties hammering the ceiling pretty hard. Don't stand under a light fixture.

For those who insist on using optics, there is a permanently attached COMBLOC optics rail secured to the left side of the receiver, this addition differs from the original vz. 58. Lacking a mount for that setup, I used the iron sights at 100 yards. I had forgotten how hard AK-style

sights are to use, but very happy with my new eyes, and the vz. 58 produced gratifyingly good groups.

Disassembly of the vz. 58 takes a different approach than other rifles. As usual, remove the magazine, unload and show clear. Leave the bolt forward. Push the safety to the fire position, and dry fire the vz. 58. On the left side of the back end of the receiver/cover joint, you'll see the head of a pin. Push this in and across, out to the right. It is a captured pin and will stay in the receiver. Next step: use your thumb to push the serrated plate on the rear of the cover into the cover (towards the muzzle) and hinge the cover up out of the receiver. Once hinged, pull it back out of the receiver and carrier. It will have the two springs attached as an assembly.

Pull the carrier assembly back and lift it up out of the receiver. The carrier assembly is a bit tricky. Pull the linear hammer back until it stops. You can now lift the bolt and locking block out. Yes, the locking block looks very much like the Walther P38 or Beretta 92, scaled to work with a rifle cartridge. The linear hammer does not come straight out of the carrier, you'll have to rotate it until you line up the hammer retention lug with



The receiver of the vz. 58 is a steel trough that holds the guide rails and locking slots. (Patrick Sweeney)



The AR-15 magazine adapter comes with the extra parts needed and instructions. (Patrick Sweeney)

the carrier clearance slot, and then you can remove it. If you want to remove the piston for cleaning the handguard covering it is held in place by the same kind of pin, moving in the same direction.

With the vz. 58 stripped, you can see why the Czechs were so enamored of it, and why the designers proud of it. The receiver is basically a bar of steel machined to be a trough with guide rails and locking slots in it. The only real protuberance is the rear sight block, which is the guide for the piston, and I can see it having been used in the pre-CNC machining era as the fixturing block for the cutting to be done.

The stock on the vz. 58 sent is the Tactical model, which uses an AR-15 stock. There's an adapter to change the angle of the buffer tube (pitched down, to let you properly use the iron sights) and it is comfortable to use. The beauty of the vz. 58 design is that swapping stocks is simple. Unbolt the stock that's on there (in this case, the buffer tube with adapter) and then bolt on the replacement.

Lastly, if you are interested, but the idea of proprietary magazines just doesn't float your boat, CzechPoint offers an adapter for AR-15 magazines. It runs an extra \$85, and you have to be selective with magazines. Czechpoint has done extensive testing and found that new aluminum magazines work best. They will lock the bolt open and drop free. CzechPoint has a comprehensive list, and in this day and age of common and widely available magazines, setting up a batch of mags just for use in your vz. 58 shouldn't be a problem.

The muzzle nut instead of the muzzle brake version is \$100 less but considering what AR-15s go for these days,

owning a COMBLOC classic that isn't a common-as-dirt AK-type rifle isn't all that expensive.

Handy, ergonomic, a nice trigger, and plenty-good accuracy. Yep, the Czechs got it right back in the Eisenhower Era. And it is still good today. **FN**

SPECIFICATIONS	
CZECHPOINT VZ. 58 RIFLE	
Type:	Striker-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	5.56
Capacity:	30+1 rounds
Barrel:	16.2 in.
Overall Length:	35 in. (stock closed), 38.3 in. ext.
Weight:	7 lbs. 4 oz.
Finish:	Matte black coating over phosphated steel
Grips:	Magpul MOE
Sights:	Notch and post
Trigger:	5 lbs., 4 oz.
MSRP:	\$2,040 (\$1,920 w/o muzzle brake)
Contact:	CzechPoint-USA.com, (865) 418-7290

SOURCES	
Black Hills Ammunition:	Black-hills.com, (605) 348-5150
Barnaul Ammunition:	Barnaulammo.com, (877) 425-4867
Hornady Manufacturing:	Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220
Speer:	Speer.com, (877) 426-7849



There are a bunch of reasons you go out and purchase a rimfire firearm. The main one for a lot of people is cost. Specifically, inexpensive practice or inexpensive fun. If, however, you are interested in vermin control, then even a top-end .22 LR might not be what you are looking for. Oh, I've spent more than a handful of afternoons tagging steel plates at absurd distances with a .22 LR rifle or handgun, but if I'm going to be whacking vermin, "good enough" usually isn't. I want the most accuracy I can get, with as flat a trajectory as possible, and as much reach as I can manage. That means stepping up to one of the .17s.

So, the Rock River Arms .17 HMR Rock Chuck really caught my eye. You'd think that for absolute precision you'd want to go with a bolt-action rifle. When I started this adventure in shooting many years ago, yes, that was the case. However, the level of accuracy every firearm delivers has risen, and the self-loading rifle we now call the modern sporting rifle has kept up, and greatly closed the gap that used to exist between bolt-guns and ARs.

At first glance, the RRA .17 HMR (and I'll just call it the "17" or the "RRA" for brevity) looks much like any other current-design and production AR-15. However, the



ROCK RIVER ARMS' .17 HMR

ROCK CHUCK CARBINE

Color Me Jealous!

By Patrick Sweeney

differences are in the details, and those really matter. First, the bolt/carrier and barrel combo.

Rock River starts with a chrome-moly barrel in .17 caliber, with a twist of 1:9. They profile it to be nicely balanced once installed in the upper receiver and thread the muzzle. It comes with a flash hider installed. The bolt, a chromed part for ease of cleaning, rides inside a billet receiver. Since this is not meant to be anything mil-spec, there's no need for some of the mil-spec details or aspects.

Rock River starts with a billet of 7000 series aluminum instead of a forging. They mill it to be a railed AR-15

receiver but leave off the forward assist (superfluous in most instances anyway) ejection lump and the dust cover door. If you are assaulting a beach while using a .17 HMR as your tool of choice, you are in the wrong place. (Or have selected a sub-optimal tool for the task.)

The barrel is held in the upper receiver with the Rock River RRA Lightweight Free Float Rail Handguard. In this instance, the fifteen-inch version. (You can get the RRA handguard in several lengths if you are doing a build of your own.) The handguard has a top rail the full length, and the rail is the same height as the top rail of the upper

ROCK RIVER ARMS' .17 HMR ROCK CHUCK CARBINE



▲ The Rock River Arms Rock Chuck in .17 HMR is one accurate varmint-vaporizing tool. (Patrick Sweeney)



The controls are standard AR-15, but if you wanted to (no idea why) you could replace them with others. (Patrick Sweeney)



The upper receiver is billet, and since it is a rimfire Rock River doesn't do the forward assist, ejector pyramid or dust cover door. (Patrick Sweeney)

receiver creating a full-length rail on which to mount optics and accessories. If you want more mounted gear, the rail is fitted with Mlok slots at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock on the handguard. The handguard clamps onto the proprietary barrel nut, and has indexing tabs to keep it from rotating when in use, but inside is the biggest surprise.

Most self-loading rimfire rifles are simple blowback designs. The mass of the bolt, combined with the force of the recoil spring, keep the bolt closed during firing and for a certain time after. Then the gas pressure impulse rudely shoves the bolt back, and the system cycles. Not so the Rock River .17 HMR. It has a patented gas impingement



◀ The Rock River handguard has indexing tabs (steel) to keep the handguard aligned with the upper receiver. And the handguard clamps onto the barrel nut. (Patrick Sweeney)



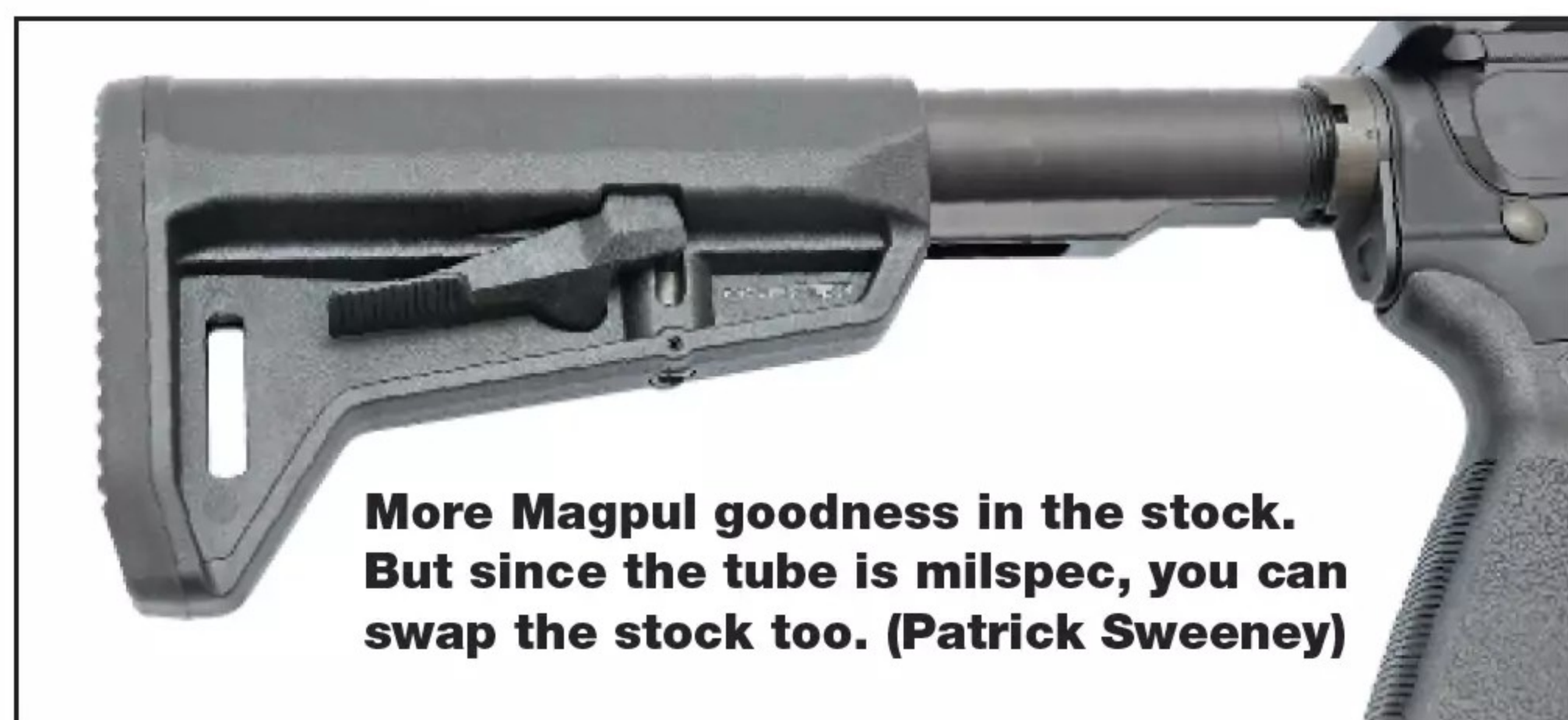
The gas block is barely visible at the rear of the handguard. Yes, a gas block, on a rimfire. (Patrick Sweeney)



▼ In .17 HMR, it looks pretty much like every other AR-15 out there. But it isn't. (Patrick Sweeney)



◀ The delayed blowback is accomplished by means of spring-loaded ball bearings that protrude out of the carrier when closed. (Patrick Sweeney)



More Magpul goodness in the stock. But since the tube is milspec, you can swap the stock too. (Patrick Sweeney)

lockup and delayed blowback. There's a gas block on the barrel riding inside of the handguard. Oh, was I tempted to wrench the handguard off and disassemble the RRA, to closely examine the details. But, sending a box full of loose parts back to Rock River might be considered rude, so I did what I could simply peering through the Mlok slots of the handguard.

The gas block is just forward of the barrel nut. This makes sense, as the .17 HMR, despite running at some 26,000 PSI, doesn't have a lot of gas to work with. The real magic is in the bolt/carrier. The gas key on the bolt/carrier is spring-loaded. With the key pushed forward by the spring, it pushes two ball bearings to protrude out of the carrier, pushed there by an internal cam in the gas key. When the gas hits the key, it shoves the key back, compressing the spring. The ball bearings can now retract, and the chamber pressure inertia can then push the bolt back. Once the bolt cycles, it stops, the gas key is pushed forward by its spring, and the ball bearings protrude locking the

► The trigger guard is a winter trigger guard, so plenty of room for a glove. The pistol grip is a Magpul MOE, but you can swap that if you need to. (Patrick Sweeney)



◀ The trigger is a Rock River Match two-stage, and it is an excellent trigger. (Patrick Sweeney)

ROCK RIVER ARMS' .17 HMR ROCK CHUCK CARBINE



▲ The Black Dog Machine magazines fit into a regular mag well, so the Rock Chuck doesn't need a special adapter for its magazines. (Patrick Sweeney)



◀ Lose focus for a split-second, and your perfect one-hole group can be turned into a "merely accurate" group. No fault of Hornady or Rock River. (Patrick Sweeney)



▲ Browning delivered consistent, accurate, groups, and plenty of velocity as well. (Patrick Sweeney)

► The Black Dog magazines feed from a single point, unlike the centerfire AR-15, which feeds from alternating sides. (Patrick Sweeney)



This is the kind of accuracy a modern sporting rifle can deliver, in .17 HMR. (Patrick Sweeney)

bolt in place. Behind the bolt/carrier is a buffer and spring assembly to drive it all. Unlike a .22LR upper, the .17 HMR requires a buffer spring in the stock.

In the back of all this is the Magpul MOE SL-K six-position stock. You can adjust the .17 HMR to fit you, and

even adjust it if you find you need to be in an awkward shooting position to get your sights on-target. An accurate rifle isn't so accurate if you can't handle it well, and if you have to fight the trigger in order to fire it. Rock River takes care of both of those. The handling part means Magpul MOE pistol grip, and Rock Rivers own winter

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA ROCK RIVER ARMS .17 HMR RIFLE					
Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy Avg./Best (in.)
Hornady V-Max	17	2,437	65	30.3	1.3 / 1
Browning Polytip	17	2,379	74	27.9	1.1 / 0.9
Winchester V-Max	17	2,485	100	47.7	1.2 / 1
Hornady XTP	20	2,308	138	54.5	1.5 / 1.1
Winchester Gamepoint	20	2,307	152	65.0	1.6 / 1.4
Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 100 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.					



The .17 HMR Rock Chuck has a threaded barrel, so you can install a suppressor if you wish. Just be certain it is spec'd for the .17 HMR. (Patrick Sweeney)



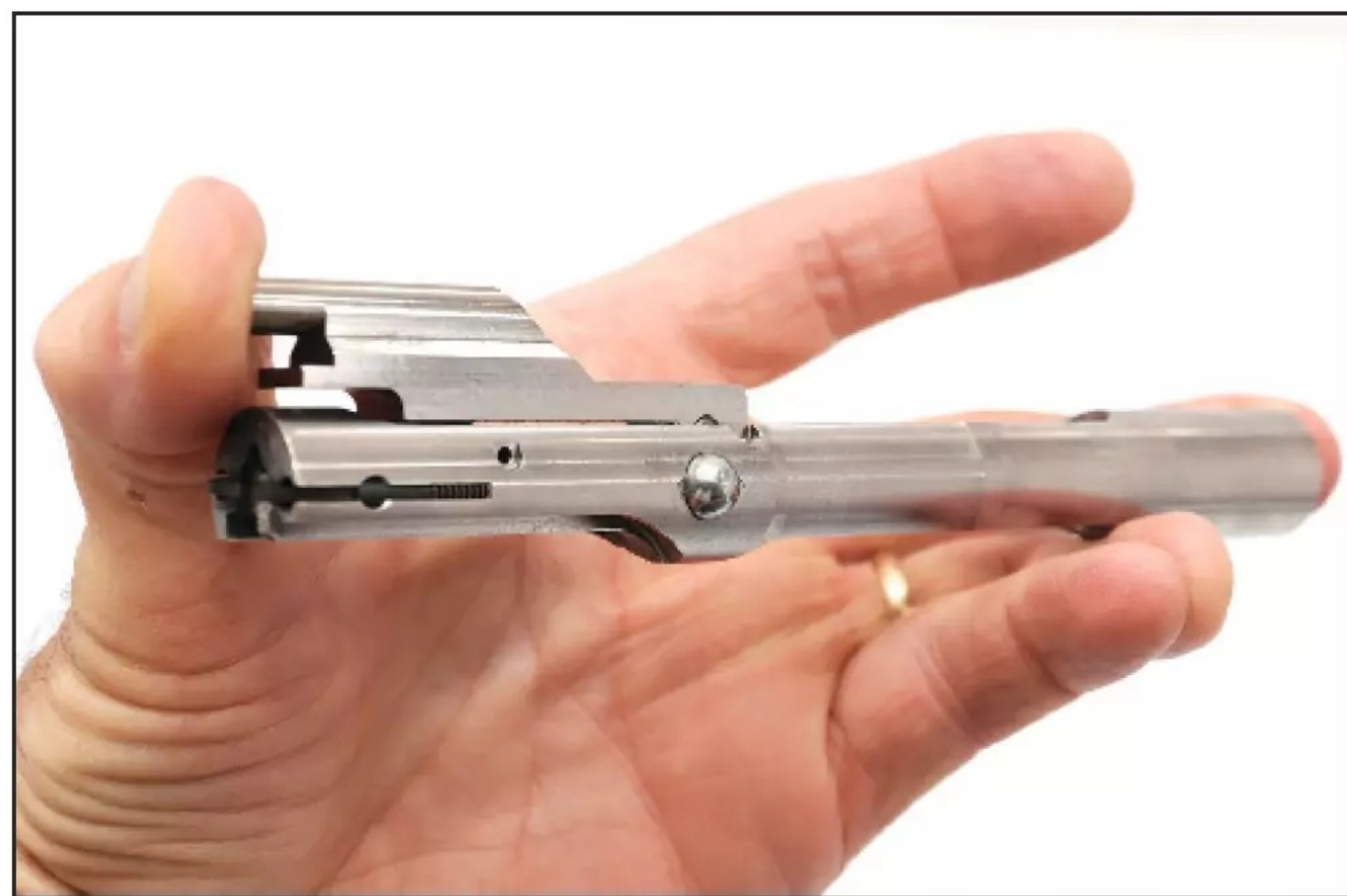
The Rock River Arms Rock Chuck comes apart like any other AR-15. It is getting it back together that is special. (Patrick Sweeney)

trigger guard. Instead of a trigger guard that hinges down if you need extra room, they just give you extra room. The bowed guard provides plenty of room if you happen to be using the 17 in the winter, wearing gloves.

The lower is a mil-spec forged receiver, the regular and excellent Rock River LAR-15M. Inside it, they install their own two-stage Ultra Match trigger set. The result is clean and crisp trigger pull that is something you have to use to believe. There's a light take-up, then the trigger stops. Once you have applied an additional pound and a half, the hammer falls.

Now, the .17 HMR is a rimfire, but not just any rimfire. Developed by Hornady, and unveiled in 2002, it is the .22 WMR necked down to .17. Which sounds simple but took a lot of testing and engineering to produce the cartridge we now use to vaporize pests at distances past .22 LR. And the feeding system for the .17 HMR? Black Dog Machine LLC. They have been making solid and reliable .22 LR magazines for many years now, and its .17 HMR magazine follows the same pattern. Two solid halves of the magazine are bolted together with a properly curved feed track sandwiched inside. The .17 HMR (and the .22 WMR) requires a different feed track than that of the .22 LR, but the external dimensions are proper for fitting into an unaltered AR-15 lower receiver mag well. The .17 HMR Rock Chuck came with a ten-round magazine, but Black Dog makes ten-round, seventeen-round, and twenty-three round magazines for the .17 HMR/.22 WMR.

An accurate rifle is nothing without some means of aiming, so I dug into the optics locker and came up with an old Leupold Mark 4 3-9x36 scope, already in rings. Perfect as-is to bolt onto the Rock River receiver rail. It was easy



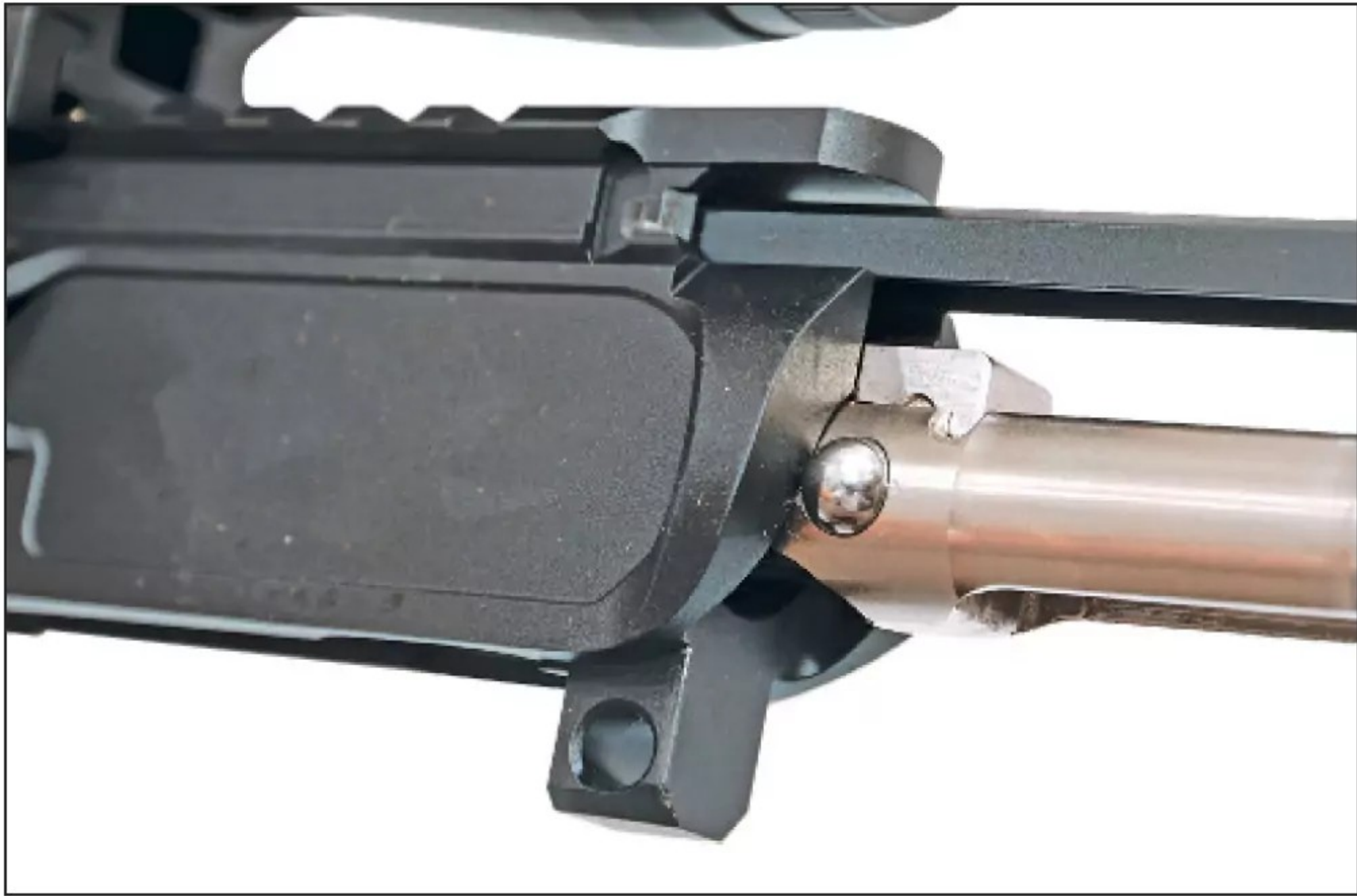
If your hands are big enough you can squeeze the gas key back to retract the ball bearings. If not, then a handy wall or bench edge will suffice. (Patrick Sweeney)



In order to insert the carrier assembly you need to keep the ball bearings retracted. Pinch them in this way once you have pushed the gas key back. (Patrick Sweeney)



Keep the ball bearings retracted and let the rear of the upper receiver push your fingertips off of them as you install the carrier. (Patrick Sweeney)



If the ball bearings are not retracted the carrier won't fit into the upper. This is what happens if you don't pinch the ball bearings as you assemble the Rock Chuck. (Patrick Sweeney)

enough to get a basic zero at 25 yards, then dial in at 100 to do some group-shooting. Oh, what fun.

The .17 HMR has hardly any recoil at all, so it isn't as if you will get pushed around while shooting from the bench. The hardest part about shooting groups with it was in not paying attention to the group sizes as I shot them. With my new eyes, and the clear 9X of the Leupold, I could get a good idea of how things were shaping up at 100 yards. Golfers call it “the yips” when someone screws up a putt (usually a putt) under pressure. Seeing a tight cluster of holes shaping up at 100 yards, it isn't easy to stay focused, but I did.

The Rock Chuck is threaded, so you can install a suppressor if you wish. (And it would be a good idea when used for vermin control.) However, the .17 HMR is clearly a supersonic loading (I do not know of a single subsonic loading, and really, what's the point?) so you will have the supersonic crack. A .22LR with subsonics can be “Hollywood” quiet, but the .17 HMR, not so much.

SPECIFICATIONS	
ROCK RIVER ARMS .17 HMR RIFLE	
Type:	Hammer-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	.17 HMR
Capacity:	10, 14, 23 rounds
Barrel:	18 in.
Overall Length:	33.5 in. (stock closed), 37 in. extended
Weight:	6 lbs. 12 oz.
Finish:	Anodized aluminum
Grips:	Magpul MOE
Sights:	n/a
Trigger:	RRA two-stage, 3.5 lbs.
MSRP:	\$1,305 (model tested)
Contact:	RockRiverArms.com, (309) 792-5780

The Rock River Arms Rock Chuck .17 HMR is very cool, but you will have to work on cleaning and reassembly. Oh, the disassembly and cleaning will be easy. Just like cleaning your AR-15, without the locking lugs of a centerfire rifle. It is the re-assembly that will tax you. When you pull the bolt out, you'll hear a “click” as the ball bearings snap out. When you go to insert the bolt into the receiver they won't retract. Well, someone, somewhere, will probably use a mallet and “make” them retract, but that would be bad. It would be abuse. You have to use both hands, and something to hold the rifle. Start by placing the charging handle halfway out, so there's room to work. Now, use your thumb and forefinger on your left hand to span the carrier length (sorry, people with small hands) and pinch the gas key back. If you can't reach, use a wall or bench edge to press the carrier back. Hold it back by pinching the ball bearings in place. Use your right hand to retract the ball bearings and hold them in place with thumb and forefinger. Let go with your left and guide the bolt/carrier into the receiver. You will have enough finger strength to keep the bearings retracted, but the moment you ease up they will snap out. The trick is getting the carrier far enough into the receiver to let the receiver walls hold the ball bearings in, before your fingers let go.

It took a few practice runs, but once I had a feel for it, it went easily. That's a small thing to have to learn to get the benefits of such a useful and accurate rifle. **FN**

SOURCES
Black Dog Machine, LLC BlackDogMachineLLC.net, (208) 465-1940
Browning Ammunition BrowningAmmo.com
Hornady Manufacturing Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220
Winchester Ammunition Winchester.com

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Is there recoil? Yes. Is there muzzle flash? You betcha. Will the recoil kill you? Nope. (Patrick Sweeney)

COLT'S .44 MAGNUM ANACONDA REVOLVER

Big Magnum, Big Performance!

By Patrick Sweeney

This is the second go-round for the Colt Anaconda model. The first iteration came out in 1990 and lasted just over a dozen years. The older model revolvers were big and tough, but not the best that Colt could do. When the time came to re-introduce the Anaconda, Colt used a stronger frame and the new and improved Python action as the basis for the new magnum. And boy did they get it right this time.

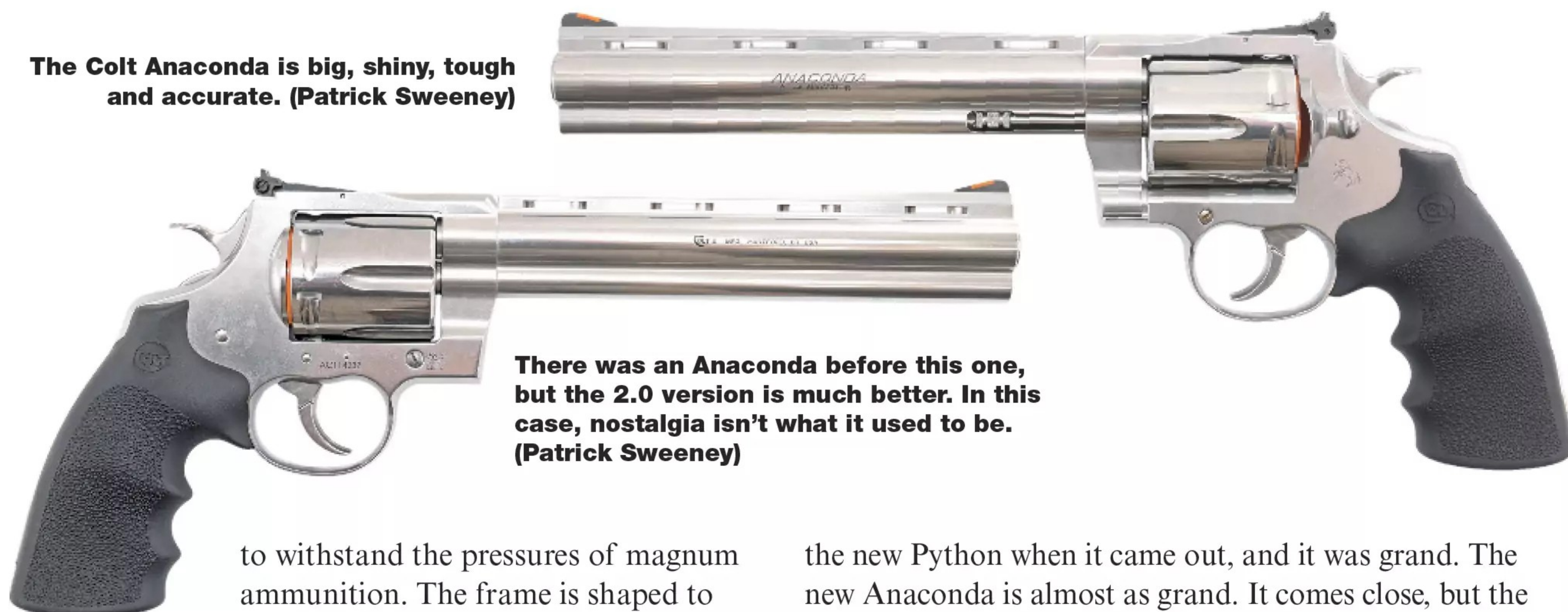
Okay, the basics. The new Anaconda is a six-shot revolver that you can get in .44 Magnum or .45 Colt. While there are four-, six-, and eight-inch versions available, I opted for the eight-inch version for a couple of reasons. One, I wanted to see what kind of velocity I could get out of it., And two, the boss tasked me with a particular test, one we'll go over in a bit. There are three versions, the Matte, the standard and the Target. The Target is polished to a bright shine, but the standard (which is the one sent here) is plenty shiny enough.

Reintroduced in 2021, the Anaconda is a size descendant of the Colt New Service, which dates back to the first decade of the twentieth century. However, while they are much the same size, the differences in technology make all the difference in performance.

First of all, the Anaconda is beefier where it counts. The frame is contoured to provide more steel where needed, and to give your hand a better chance of surviving the recoil. The New Service was a big and heavy revolver, but the grip shape seemed designed to actually punish you for wanting to shoot it. I have shot a few through the decades, and in .45 ACP they are not fun. With full power (by .45 Colt standards) .45 Colt ammunition, they are actually painful. No way would I ever shoot a New Service in .44 Magnum, even if I thought the metallurgy of the New Service was up to the task.

The forged stainless steel of the Anaconda is heat-treated to withstand the recoil forces. The cylinder is also made

The Colt Anaconda is big, shiny, tough and accurate. (Patrick Sweeney)



There was an Anaconda before this one, but the 2.0 version is much better. In this case, nostalgia isn't what it used to be. (Patrick Sweeney)

to withstand the pressures of magnum ammunition. The frame is shaped to permit the Hogue over-molded grip to do all of its work in dampening recoil. Also dampening the recoil is the fully under lugged barrel, which adds enough weight to the Anaconda that you can stand to shoot the top-end magnum loads. To aid you in this, Colt has taken the new Python action and scaled it up to fit the linebacker-sized frame of the Anaconda. The original Python itself an outgrowth of the New Service, was noted for its wonderfully smooth and even double action trigger pull. As good as it was, even the old Python could be improved. The late Jerry Moran tuned Pythons to be butter-smooth and much lighter than factory, which was already very good. I once had the opportunity to handle and shoot a Moran-tuned Python. I was impressed enough, and rash enough, to ask what it would take to buy it. The price quoted back in 1986 was equal to about two monthly mortgage payments. (No, I didn't buy it.)

The problem with the old Python action was that it required an inordinate amount of training, experience, and skill to build and maintain. The new Python action was developed with the idea in mind that it should not be so much a product of skilled hand labor and be smooth and easy to use from design. And it is, I had the occasion to test

the new Python when it came out, and it was grand. The new Anaconda is almost as grand. It comes close, but the simple fact of it needing to be bigger and having to rotate a larger cylinder, makes it almost, but not quite the .357 Python action. The Python looks carry over to the barrel. The fully lugged barrel, with its integral rib is one piece, made of forged stainless steel, is machined and polished to be a form of art as well as a barrel. The front sight is inserted into the rib, and has a red insert in the ramp, which is very traditional, but improved. The originals had the sight pinned in place. This meant that if you wanted to change them, you had to carefully drift out the pin (without marring the rib) and then



The Colt design does not require a forward locking gizmo. (Patrick Sweeney)



The Colt Anaconda holds six rounds of .44 Magnum. The charge holes are not recessed, no need. (Patrick Sweeney)



While the Anaconda can also be had in .45 Colt, the real big-block horsepower producer here is the .44 Magnum. (Patrick Sweeney)



The front sight of the Anaconda is a ramp with a red insert. This is classic, and still useful. (Patrick Sweeney)



Above the recessed crown, the Anaconda sight is held in place by means of an allen screw in from the front of the rib. This holds the sight in and is easier to manage than the roll pins of yore. (Patrick Sweeney)



The rear sight is click-adjustable for windage and elevation. Ahead of it, you can see two of the three scope mount screws. (Patrick Sweeney)

drift it back with the new sight in place. The modern method uses an allen-head screw inserted from the front, and it is much easier and less prone to knarving the finish. The rear sight is click-adjustable for elevation and windage.

The cylinder holds six rounds, and it rotates clockwise, as all Colt double-action revolvers have done since... I can't remember. I know the New Service does, but earlier ones I haven't had a chance to handle, shoot or work on, so I can't say. Anyway, the hand, the part that rotates the

cylinder, is on the left side of the cylinder axis, and acts to press it tighter into lockup as you fire. This is how Colt can make a revolver that doesn't have a front locking lug, and still be durable and accurate. (Oh, the accuracy, but I risk giving too much away too soon.)

The new Python action wedded to the new and improved Anaconda frame makes for a big, immensely tough revolver, but one with a very nice action, both in single action and double action. The Anaconda uses a transfer bar to connect the hammer to the firing pin, so you can safely carry it with all six charge holes loaded.

The Hogue OverMolded grip does not cover the backstrap, so you will get hit there on each shot. To make the grip cover the backstrap probably would have made the grip too large for many shooters—that's a compromise we all have to live with.

I tested the Anaconda with a few .44 Magnum loads, mostly to see what kinds of velocities an eight-inch barrel would produce, but the real test was the one the boss put to me: "See what kind of 100-yard groups you can get. This is a hunting revolver, so test it at hunting distances." Well, a hunting revolver needs better sights than the iron sights that come on the Anaconda. Oh, I can work over a steel plate on the club's 100-yard range all day long with iron sights, but if I'm going to hunt with a handgun, the critter



To uncover the third mount screwhole for the scope mount, you have to remove the rear sight. (Patrick Sweeney)



When mounting a scope, place the rings as far apart as you can while not contacting the front or rear bell of the scope. (Patrick Sweeney)



The Burris 2-7x32 is a serious piece of handgun optics, built to stand up to recoil. (Patrick Sweeney)



The firing system uses a transfer bar to connect the hammer to the firing pin. So the Anaconda is safe to carry fully loaded. (Patrick Sweeney)



The Hogue OverMolded grips do a lot to soften recoil, but there will still be plenty of it. (Patrick Sweeney)



Yes, handgun recoil is fierce, but follow the mounting instructions and torque limits for the screws. (Patrick Sweeney)



No, not shooting uphill. This is how much the muzzle rises in recoil, without trying to fight it. Fighting it is a hopeless task, so don't. (Patrick Sweeney)

I'm hinting deserves better accuracy than that. Tagging a one-foot-square plate at 100 yards is not the same as a properly delivered shot on a whitetail.

I mounted a Burris 2-7x32 handgun scope with the Ballistic Plex reticle. (You can have the optic with one of two reticles, and in black or nickel silver.) In order to mount the scope, I had to remove the rear sight, as one of the three mount screws uses a drilled and tapped hole in the Anaconda frame that is concealed beneath the iron sight. That meant drifting out a roll pin that the rear sight uses, a delicate task with a 1/16-inch pin punch. Sight off, mount on, then Burris rings to clamp on the Burris scope, and the

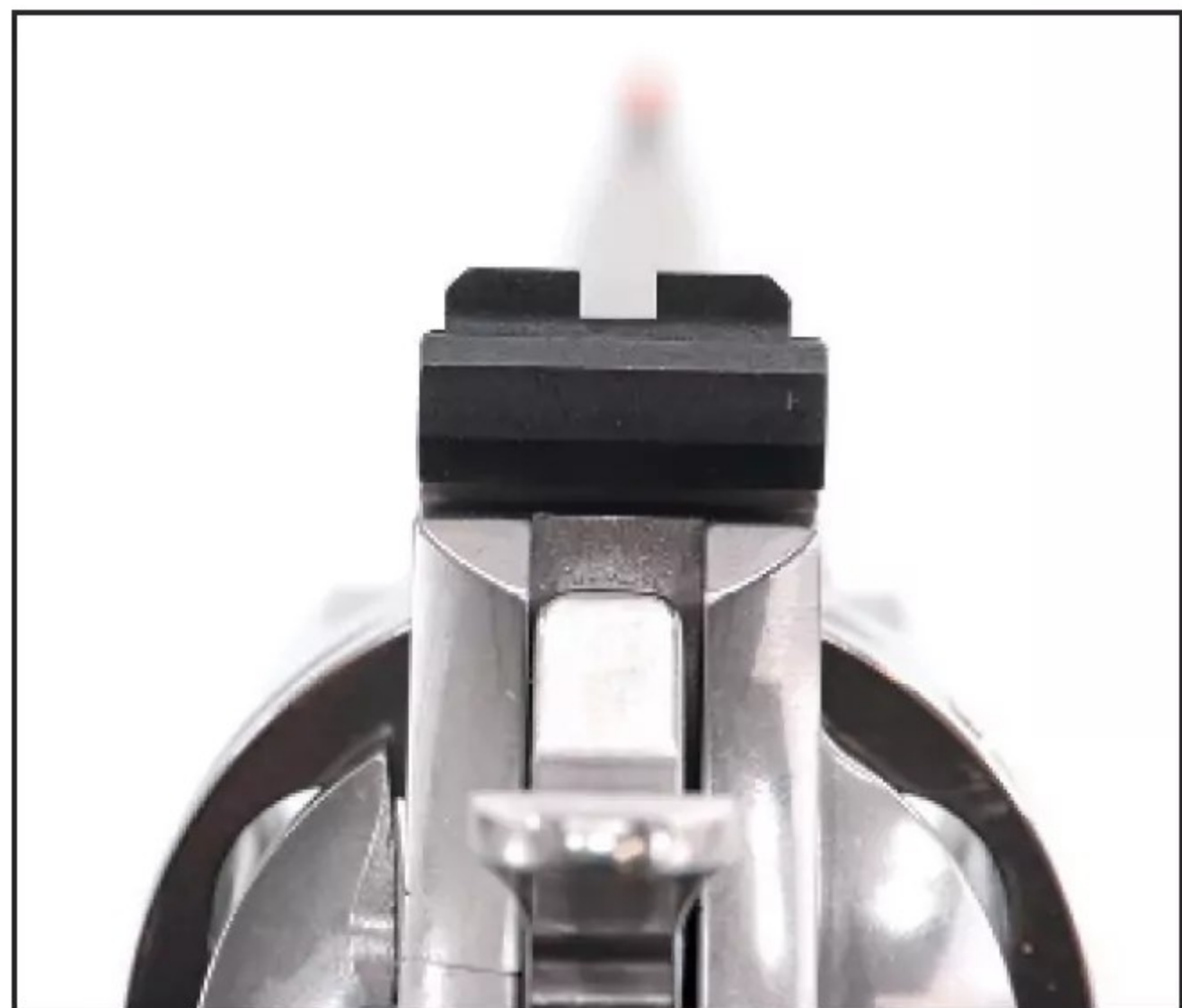
Anaconda was ready for long-range accuracy work, as well as being a full pound heavier.

I did my preliminary work, the chrono work and basic accuracy testing, at 25 yards, as I usually do. The results were, amusingly, absurd. A 2X scope at 25 yards for accuracy work, on an accurate revolver, produces literal one-hole groups. After the first one, I then tried one each of the other loads and gave up. I mean, really, what's the point. I'm not going to parse out fractions of tenths of an inch each in group sizes when they are all under an inch, edge to edge. So, off to the 100-yard range I went. Well, I went after adding some extra equipment.

Usually when I do accuracy work, I'm shooting 9mm. Or .45ACP. I find that the bench top is comfortable enough with a single layer of an old towel underneath my elbows. .44 Magnum? Nope, not a chance. So, I added a box full of towels to my shooting gear list. This proved to be more work than I had anticipated. Not-perfect technique really gets seen at 100 yards. The recoil of .44 Magnum is a lot. (I know there are those who say it is a good starting point, and "real power" starts above that, but I like to be able to still type after a range session.) It took several range sessions to get back into the magnum groove, and shooting magnums is work, especially from the bench.

So, I upped my game. Instead of doing the Anaconda accuracy after all the other work on a range day, I went out to do just it and it alone. *"Recoil pain is simply the by-product of accuracy."* - Elmer Keith, the shooting legend who shot .44s his whole life. I laid off the coffee each morning, got to the club early and even did a session of Tai Chi to get myself into the proper Zen-like frame of mind. And, it worked. The first Hornady

COLT'S .44 MAGNUM ANACONDA REVOLVER



The rear sight is plain black, no white outline here. (Patrick Sweeney)



To mount the scope, you'll have to remove the rear sight to uncover the third scope mount screw. (Patrick Sweeney)

group was two and a half inches. The second was an inch and a half. With the proof on-target, it was easy to then proceed to shoot really good groups with the rest of the ammo as well. After this, going back to 9mm testing will be easy.

So, there you have it. The Colt Anaconda, as a hunting handgun, can deliver the power and accuracy you need,

provided you can haul the weight. Full up, Anaconda, scope and mount plus six rounds of .44 Magnum ammunition: 78 ounces. That's 4-7/8 pounds. You'll need a good holster for that, and Falco makes it. No, it isn't a belt holster, because almost five pounds of handgun is going to



Yes, there are five bullet holes in there. When you shoot a 100-yard group like this, it is time to stop and break out the camera. (Patrick Sweeney)



This is the end-result of no coffee, Zen meditation, and an accurate handgun/ammunition combo at 100 yards. (Patrick Sweeney)



The Fiocchi 225 grain XPB might not be the fastest .44 Magnum load out there, but it certainly delivers accuracy. This is five shots at 100 yards, at 2.4 inches edge to edge. (Patrick Sweeney)



This is what a day's work of testing one load in one caliber looks like. Here, the Fiocchi 225 XPB and its four groups for accuracy at 100 yards. (Patrick Sweeney)

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA COLT TARGET ANACONDA .44 MAGNUM					
25 YARDS					
Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (in.)
Hornady XTP	200	1,728	65	25.9	0.8
Fiocchi XPB	225	1,423	10	4.0	0.9
Federal American Eagle JHP	240	1,277	19	7.8	0.8
Winchester JHP	240	1,212	17	6.7	0.8
Basic accuracy results were from one five-shot group per load at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle. Final testing was done with the Hornady load at 100 yards.					

pull your pants off unless you cinch the belt so tight you can't breathe. The Falco holster is tough nylon. When I started this feature, the idea was to test the Anaconda. For that, I had Falco send their D710. It works fine with the Anaconda but if you are going to scope your Anaconda, you'll need the D713, which has an optics cutout in the holster. Heading off to handgun hunt? The biggest Colt snake is just the ticket. **FN**

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA COLT TARGET ANACONDA .44 MAGNUM					
100 YARDS					
Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy Avg. / Best (in.)
Hornady XTP	200	1,728	65	25.9	2.0 / 1.5
Fiocchi XPB	225	1,423	10	4.0	2.6 / 2.3
Federal American Eagle JHP	240	1,277	19	7.8	2.6 / 2.4
Winchester JHP	240	1,212	17	6.7	2.7 / 2.5
Accuracy results from three five-shot groups per load at 100 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle. Final testing was done with the Hornady load at 100 yards.					

SPECIFICATIONS COLT TARGET ANACONDA REVOLVER	
Type:	Double-action revolver
Caliber:	.44 Magnum
Capacity:	6
Barrel:	8 in.
Overall Length:	14 in.
Weight:	3 lbs. 12 oz. (4 lbs. 14 oz. with scope as tested)
Finish:	Polished stainless steel
Grips:	Hogue Overmolded
Sights:	Adjustable rear, red ramp front, drilled and tapped for scope mounting
Trigger:	4 lbs. 14 oz. SA, 10 lbs. 4 oz. DA
MSRP:	\$1,699
Contact:	Colt.com, (800) 962-2658



A handgun this big needs a proper holster, and that likely isn't going to be a belt holster. (Patrick Sweeney)



No, it isn't a fast-draw holster, but the Falcon chest holster will protect your handgun from the elements and from the occasional backwoods scramble-through-brush incident. (Patrick Sweeney)

SOURCES	
Burris Optics	Burrisoptics.com, (888) 440-0244
Falco Holsters	FalcoHolsters.com
Federal	FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100
Fiocchi USA	Fiocchiusa.com, (417) 725-4118
Hornady Manufacturing	Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220
Winchester Ammunition	Winchester.com

[Cont. from page 16]

also a tremendous coward, I agree with the Sheriff and feel there was an eerie sense of normalcy in the lack of reaction by other commuters on the train. Brown walked amongst them, even brushing up against a passenger as he moved past, dripping blood all over the floor of the train. How could anyone know that he would stop with Zarutka? Is it truly indifference that causes this form of paralysis, or is it simply fear? I'm not saying that carrying a firearm and knowing how to use it eliminates feelings of fear; however, it may very well be the equalizer that saves lives in the hands of a prepared citizen who is willing to protect themselves and their fellow man.

"I am asking each and every citizen across Butts County, that is legally allowed to possess a firearm, to please exercise their 2nd Amendment right, be trained and proficient and stay ready to protect yourself and/or a helpless third party. If you need training, click the link and check out our 'Citizens' Handgun Safety' Classes and 'Women's Self-Defense' Classes. More dates for each class will be posted soon," the Sheriff continued.

Proficiency leads to confidence, and confidence with a firearm can mean

the difference between life and death. There are far too many people who purchase firearms, perhaps a box or two of ammunition, then lock them up somewhere for safekeeping, treating them like an emergency safety tool that requires no training to use. Don't be that person. Go to the range, get training, practice what you've learned, and start carrying every day, because you never know where or when you'll encounter the wolf.

I am elated to see a law enforcement leader not only stand up for the Second Amendment but also discuss the importance of its exercise. Sheriff Long is encouraging citizens to pursue training and providing them with the resources to access this education, a directive that will fundamentally address firearm safety and proficiency. Sheriffs across the nation should be having this same discussion with residents of their counties.

"I ask our entire community to keep Iryna's friends, family and loved ones in their prayers. May the wrath of God deal with the low-life that took Iryna's life far too soon," Long wrote.

I can't think of a better way to conclude this statement. We see it every day in the collapse of society's morality

and sense of right and wrong. Mentally ill people are not in the news delivering flowers to an entire city block or for being obsessed with philanthropy, nor do all mentally ill people commit heinous crimes. Regardless of whatever the left's excuse of the day may be, these tragedies come from the choices of a few, choices inspired by evil that often leave a trail of predictability for anyone willing to notice. If those entrusted with this responsibility fail to, or refuse to notice, then it is our responsibility as Americans and human beings to take up the mantle, defending our nation and our loved ones. As the left has been rallying against, ridiculing, and even murdering those calling for a return to prayer, maybe it's time we start being honest about where we come as a nation, the principles that made this country great, and where we've taken wrong turns against reason, logic, the Constitution, God, and ultimately ourselves.

—
Darwin Nercesian is a long-time gun rights advocate and shooter of targets far, far away. As a News Field Editor at Firearms News, Darwin writes about the Second Amendment, firearms, and related gear. Follow him on Instagram, X, and YouTube @DTOE_Official. FN

DEMOCRATS' ATTACK ON CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP EXPANSION PLAYS ON FEARS WITH LIES

Left Wingers in Congress Equate Marksmanship Training with Gang Banging

By David Codrea, Politics Field Editor

"During a debate on the House floor on Tuesday, Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL) spoke against an amendment which would authorize the military to give 'additional' surplus weapons to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, which Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL) defended," Forbes summarized on a video of the exchange.



(H. M. Thompson/Shutterstock)

"This amendment would allocate additional surplus military weapons from the department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force to the CMP to further their mission of

educating youth on the importance of gun safety and marksmanship activities," Rogers explained.

He's been consistent in his support for the program. His latest efforts

to use the National Defense Authorization Act to further the transfer and sale of U.S. military firearms, including M1911 pistols (in March, the Trump administration released 10,000 of them for CMP sales), add to leadership he showed in 2016 permitting the Army to transfer surplus vintage firearms, and in 2017, when his amendment made transferring surplus firearms mandatory.

It's a "win-win for the taxpayers," Rogers has stated, because it saves money on firearm storage costs and CMP reimburses for the cost of transferring them. That, and they're made available to the public, and it supports programs for education, training, and safety. Who could be against that?

In a word, Democrats. In two words, Maxwell Frost, a former National Organizing Director at March for Our Lives, co-sponsor of the Prevent Illegal Gun Resales Act that would increase licensing fees and smear FFLs as "high risk dealers," a purveyor of heightened "background check" prior restraints, due process-denying "red flag laws," lock-up-your-safety mandates couched as "safe storage, and who essentially never saw a gun he didn't want to ban, "ghost," "assault," or otherwise. Just to be clear who we're dealing with, in July he asserted Republicans are pro-life "because they want the baby to be born, go to school and get shot in the school."

"Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to this amendment which will put American lives at risk," Frost dove right in, an indication that the rest of his for-the-cameras hyperbole and hysteria would drag any chance for reasoned debate downhill from there. "This amendment would make our country more dangerous by adding another responsibility and priority to the program to not just train people to but to essentially becomes become an arms dealer, putting more weapons on the streets of this country."

In all his ranting on the House floor, there was one thing conspicuously missing: Any proof at all that

firearms obtained through the CMP were being used in crimes, disproportionately or otherwise. The truth is, if he had his druthers, gun suppliers to the people would be banned everywhere, in Everytown (referring to the anti-2A organization Everytown for Gun Safety). Making surplus firearms available to the public is and has been a major purpose behind the CMP, so that's nothing new. Using Frost's phony "rationale," that's what all "arms dealers" do, and that's his point.

"To save lives, Democrats have now twice passed the bill that would expand background checks on every gun sale," Frost continued, offering no evidence that they would (indeed, the National Institute of Justice's 2013 "Summary of Select Firearm Violence Prevention Strategies" concluded that "Effectiveness depends on the ability to reduce straw purchasing, requiring gun registration...")

"And here my Republican colleagues are wanting to make it even easier to dodge the rules that we do have," Frost flat-out lied.

Here's all the "dodges" I went through back in 1995, when the program was run under the Army's Director of Civilian Marksmanship. After undergoing training and demonstrating I could handle and shoot the thing, once I got notified of my approval, I had to submit:

- Cashier's check payable to U.S. Treasury
- Certificate for Purchase of Firearms
- Notarized attachment
- FBI Fingerprint Card
- Receipt from El Segundo CA Police Department
- DD Form 398-2, pages 2 through 5 inclusive (including authority for release of information and records)

Nine months later, I got my gun. (The mailman had never delivered one before, so he stayed to watch me open it and was excited to hold it and learn more about the program.)

What a citizen is required to go through today is also chock full of stringent prior restraints, delineated at the program's website, TheCMP.org.

Requirements for Purchase are:

- Proof of U.S. Citizenship
- Proof of Age
- Membership in CMP-Affiliated Organization
- Marksmanship or Other Firearms-Related Activity
- Legal Eligibility to Purchase a Firearm (Your signature on the Purchaser Certification portion of the purchase application authorizes the CMP to initiate the NICS check and authorizes the FBI to inform CMP of the result. A signed and notarized form 2A for each customer will need to [be] provided for any item purchased.)
- Important State or Locality Requirements (including certificates, licenses, permits, or cards, age requirements, and other applicable restrictions).

That's what Frost says will "make it even easier to dodge the rules that we do have" and "put... more weapons on the streets of this country." And that's all Democrat constituents and other uninformed citizens will ever hear as the gun prohibitionists continue to swindle them out of their rights, aided and abetted by a mainstream media populated by useful idiot "journalists" who don't know any better, and devious apparatchik publishers who do.

—
*David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for Firearms News, he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook. **FN** ►►►*

TRUMP COULD END BUSH SR.'S 1989 SEMI-AUTO RIFLE IMPORT BAN **WITH STROKE OF THE PEN**

Why Haven't Membership Gun Groups Asked Him?

By David Codrea, Politics Field Editor

“There’s something else Trump could do quickly that would not require Congressional approval,” this column reported online last November in *Donald Trump and Republicans Owe Gun Owners, and It’s Time to Collect*. Focused on pledges the president had made to gun owners to solicit their votes, the article explored decisions within the president’s power to make that would help make good on his promises.

What Trump could do, on his own authority, is end the 1989 import ban on semi-automatic rifles pejoratively designated as “assault weapons.” That ban, put in place by Republican President George H.W. Bush, imposed “a permanent import ban on 43 types of semiautomatic assault rifles, including the Chinese-made AK47 and Israeli-made Uzi carbine,” per *The Washington Post*. The rationale was they “were not being used for sport as required by the Gun Control Act of 1968.” This approved gun control by a Republican president opened the gates for many states and municipalities to ban military-styled semi-auto firearms nationwide without a peep from the Bush Administration or his anti-2A Attorney General William Barr who would later become President Trump’s “best people” attorney general during his first term.

The ban would be “very easy” to overturn *Firearms News* Editor-in-Chief Vincent DeNiro assessed. But how? GCA ’68 was a law enacted by Congress. The classification of the semiautos was not.

“President Trump doesn’t even need Congress to get rid of the unconstitu-

tional 1989 ‘assault weapons’ import ban, he just needs to order the BATFE to declare all imported semi-auto rifles as ‘sporting,’ which is what these same models are considered when domestically produced,” DeNiro explained last year. *“If he wants to go down in history as a Second Amendment hero, he can make this happen on day one.”*

However, President Trump didn’t, and he hasn’t, and we’ll get to that in a moment. First, it’s relevant to reemphasize the truism that the Second Amendment isn’t about duck or deer hunting. We need to remind ourselves of research conducted by author and attorney Richard Stevens, published by Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership in 1998, explaining that “This ‘sporting use strategy was used before. The Nazi Weapons Law (18 March 1938) forbade importation of weapons under substantially the same test.”

It would, of course, be preferable for the House and Senate to acknowledge what Continental Congress Delegate Tench Coxe asserted: “Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American.” But there is no realistic scenario where that will happen in the foreseeable future/our lifetimes. And what can be done by executive action can be undone by executive action. This is something the president can and should do on his own. Why hasn’t he?

Fair speculation is that he’s more than busy, that he and his inner circle must of need focus on priorities, and that no one who influences the president’s thinking has brought this to



President George H.W. Bush ran his presidential campaign on “No new gun laws!” yet he banned imported military-styled semi-auto rifles within a few months of taking office in 1989. (Mark Reinstien/Shutterstock)

his attention. Any such sleeve-tugging should include how easy it would be, how it would infuriate his enemies into further alienating themselves from heritage Americans, and how it would reignite fire in the bellies of gun owners before the 2026 midterms (and could even help with November’s governor’s race in Virginia, where 2A stalwart Winsome Earle-Sears needs all the help she can muster against gun-grabbing extremist Abigail Spanberger).

The next question is, why hasn’t it been brought to his attention and explained for the priority that it is? The “gun groups” who claim to have the president’s ear have informed their members about the import ban in the past, so they certainly know it still exists, and they know Donald Trump has the power to make it go away.

Have the 2A membership groups broached this with their contacts in the administration already? Why won’t they publicly call on the president to do so and urge their members to add their voices?

This illustrates yet another reason why the Department of Justice’s

vaunted Second Amendment Task Force needs to include gun owner representatives, who could solicit member feedback on priorities, influence the agenda and report on progress, instead of being limited exclusively to self-interested administration careerists. That's something else no gun group has asked for.

"Stroke of the pen, law of the land. Kind of cool" Bill Clinton aide Paul Begala said of that president's signing

of executive orders. While the distinction between Constitutionally enacted laws and policies must never be overlooked, neither should a simple truth:

President Trump has the lawful power to order this reclassification so that previously banned semiautomatic rifles can be imported again and end the tyranny of the 18 USC 922r parts count dance of what constitutes an American-made semi-auto rifle. And that would be kind of cool.

David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for Firearms News, he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook. **FN**

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO **FIREARMS NEWS** INQUIRY REGARDING OTTAWA GUN GRAB

Alberta Premier, Danielle Smith, Is Trying to Stop Gun Confiscation

By David Codrea



Previously legal AR-15s and other military-styled semi-auto rifles, as well as handguns, are scheduled to be confiscated, or rendered inoperable, by Canada's government. (Karen Roach/Shutterstock)

“[Alberta Premier] Danielle Smith says all levels of government and police within the province, including RCMP, have been instructed not to participate in Mark Carney's gun confiscation,” the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights (CCFR) summarizes for an “Alberta Next” Town Hall video posted September 5 to its YouTube channel. Titled “Danielle Smith: Alberta Won't Allow Gun Confiscation,” the summary adds “she'll also close the ‘mail delivery services loophole,’ to stop services like Canada Post from helping the feds, as Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe already has.”

Because of a substantial Canadian readership, and because firearms laws imposed in “our neighbor to the North” are of interest to U.S. gun owners (not the least reason being that there are those who would mandate

infringements enacted there on citizens here) I wrote to Premier Smith on behalf of *Firearms News* via her Press Secretary, Sam Blackett, requesting that she “clarify and expand on some comments she made” at the Town Hall.

That letter follows:

Dear Premier Smith,

I am writing to you on behalf of Firearms News (previously Shotgun News) a monthly U.S. magazine that has been sold throughout Canada since 1946 and enjoys broad gun owner readership in your province. I am hoping to clarify and expand on some comments you made recently regarding “gun control” and am hopeful you or your designated spokesperson can spare a few moments to answer some questions that are of great interest to our readers and to your gun owning constituents.

In a Lloydminster Town Hall “Alberta Next” panel you recently participated in on how to protect the province from

“Ottawa overreach,” one of the citizens expressed very serious concerns over confiscation of his “legally obtained firearms.” He also expressed the opinion that the government favors criminal rights over the rights of citizens, citing the prosecution of an Ontario homeowner facing “assault” and “assault with a weapon” charges for fighting back with a knife against a home intruder who was armed with a crossbow and on probation when he broke in.

You replied that you've told municipalities they don't have the authority to implement handgun bans, and told the RCMP, sheriffs, and municipal forces they cannot confiscate guns without a permit from the justice minister, and that you “have it on good authority” he will not approve that.

Is that all that's standing in the way? What can your government do to further protect gun owners from law enforcement seizures?



Alberta Premier Danielle Smith speaking at the Calgary Stampede on July 5th, 2025. She is also the leader of the United Conservative Party. (ollytheoutlier/Shutterstock)

And as for the “legal use of firearms” you mentioned your regulation would allow gun owners to “continue to own them, collect them, use them for sport shooting, use them for hunting, and use them for other purposes.” The thing that was not mentioned was “self-defense,” and addressing the citizen’s fears that were highlighted in the crossbow break-in case. What are you empowered to do about that, will you, and how?

What legislation is being proposed to overturn the mail delivery service prohibition on conveying firearms? What can you do? What do you foresee the chances are for any substantive change?

We’ve seen calls for an independence referendum and U.S. President Donald Trump has made suggestions concerning Alberta becoming a 51st state, which we understand you do not support. Noting much of the separatist impetus is economics and pipeline-based, do you also see similar and growing anger from gun owners in the province with the federal government over Canada’s gun laws, and what do you believe needs to be done to quell their resentments?

I appreciate you taking the time to read through this and thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts on this important subject.

Thank you for your interest and consideration,

Reference: “Danielle Smith: Alberta Won’t Allow Gun Confiscation” (the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights):

“I can respond on behalf of the Ministry of Justice,” Heather Jenkins,

Press Secretary, Office of the Minister of Justice, replied. “Firearms fall under us. You can use this statement, attributed to me if needed.”

Her complete response is as follows:

Alberta believes in a principled and informed approach to firearms policy that preserves public safety and recognizes the major responsibility of owning a firearm.

Albertans and Canadians are rightfully concerned that attacking law-abiding gun owners does not address the spike in gun crime under the federal Liberal government. We oppose any policy that undermines law-abiding firearm owners including ineffective gun-buy back programs that do not combat criminal usage of firearms and is one of the federal Liberal government’s largest expenses on public safety costing approximately \$459.8 million over the next fiscal year alone.

Alberta’s government is exploring various options with provincial, territorial, and federal counterparts and external stakeholders to protect law-abiding firearms owners from federal overreach.

“Here is an article on Canadian gun ownership that I wrote years ago, of course things got worse, *Firearms News* Editor-in-Chief Vince DeNiro emailed me, sending a link to his *Firearms News* article *Who Will Save Canadian Gun Rights?* to help give background to the issue.

“Maybe something will happen this time... If Alberta was to succeed and even turned the clock back

to what their gun ownership was in 2019, living in Alberta would be much better than at least a dozen US states in many ways as far as what one could own,” DeNiro elaborated. It would be great to see a campaign whereby Canadian gun owners, in the western provinces, would fire their now ‘prohibited’ guns, on ranges and private property, in defiance of their tyrannical gun laws on December 15th, which is our Bill of Rights Day. Many Canadians are talking about our Founding history and want our Bill of Rights incorporated there.

“Prohibitive status on a gun means you can only store it at home and can no longer take it to a range—it is usually also subject to future confiscation or deactivation—hundreds of FALs and AUGs, etc. have been stored away in gun safes for decades by Canadian gun owners, DeNiro added for background information. “Restricted status means it can only be fired at a range sanctioned by the government for restricted guns (you can’t even shoot a restricted gun on your own rural property). Non-restricted status (hunting or target guns) means it can be fired on public ranges or private property.”

While the government response to the specific questions asked was general, knowing that it was an official position speaking from a perspective of preserving and expanding rights is a huge step that can’t be underplayed. What Alberta will (and can) do remains to be seen, and *Firearms News* will continue to monitor The Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights’ website (FirearmRights.ca) to keep apprised of developments.

—
David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for *Firearms News*, he blogs at “*The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance*,” and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook. **FN**

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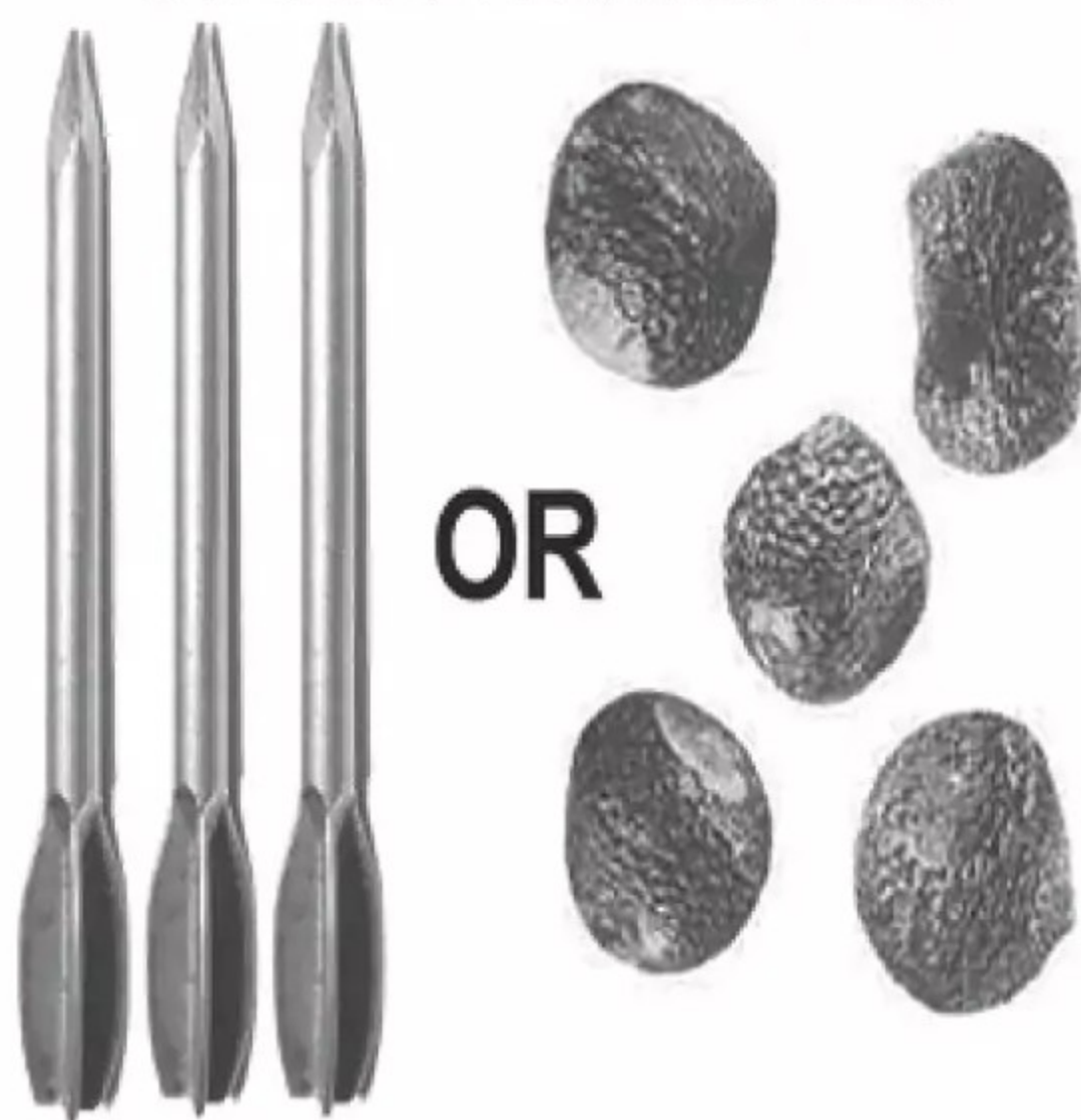
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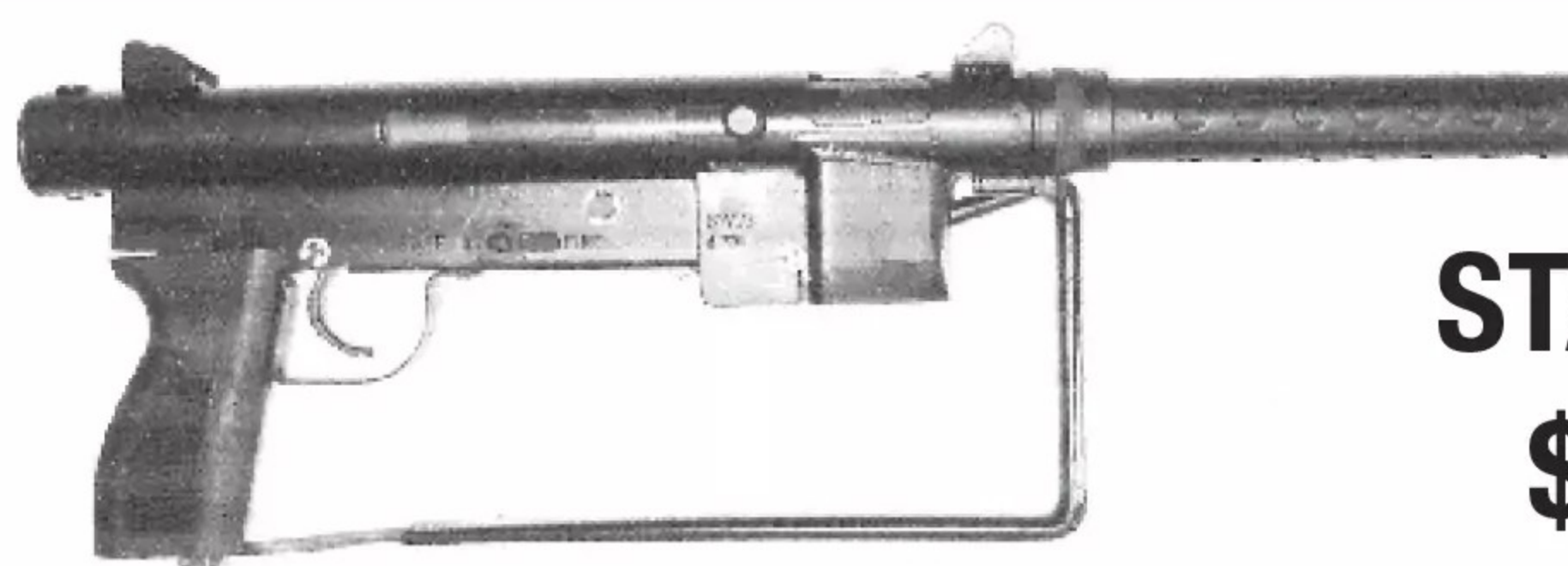
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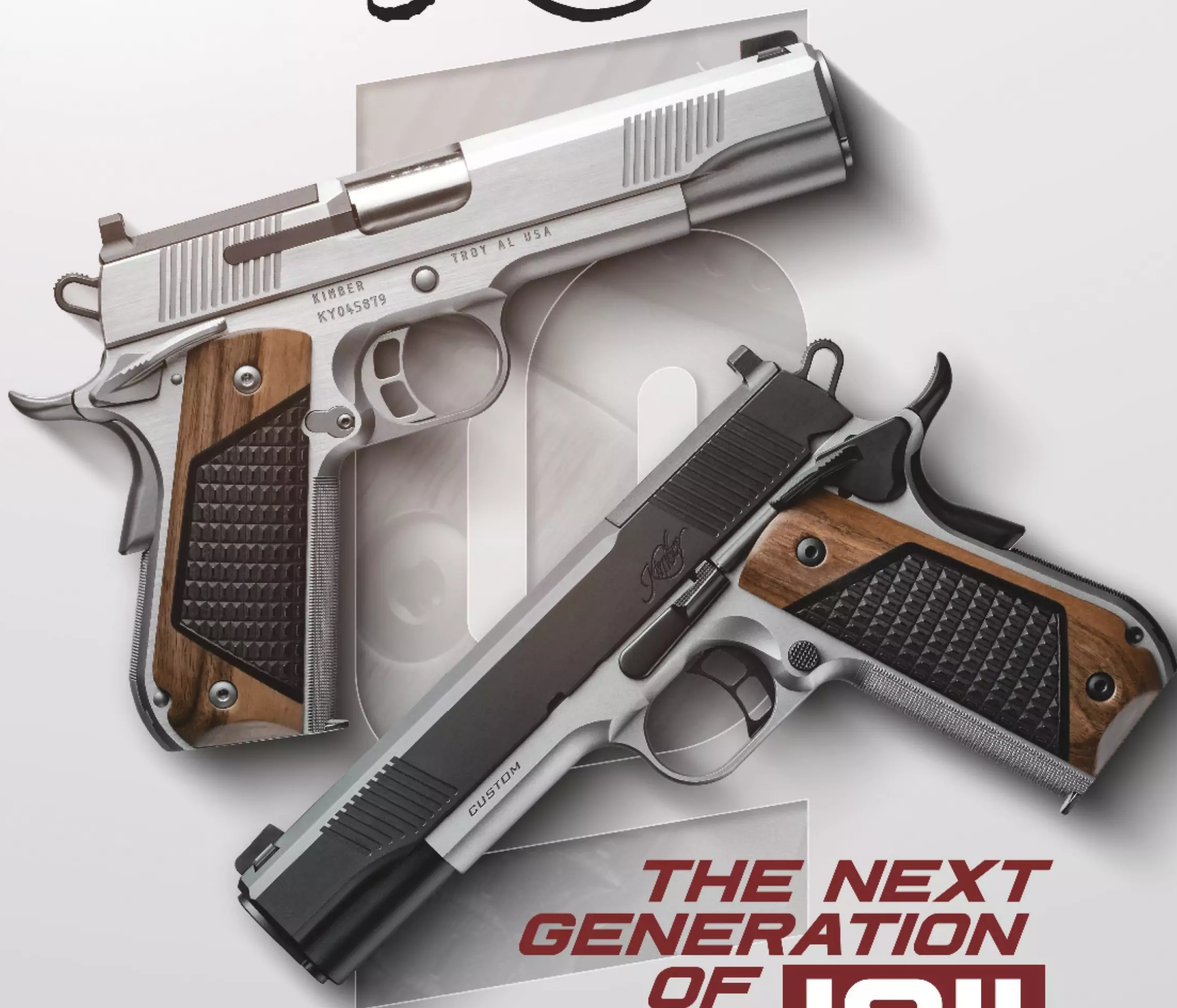
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