FIREARMS NEWS®

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATIC

OCTOBER 2025

COLT'S .44 MAGNUM KODIAK!
THE BACKCOUNTRY-CARRY "BIG BEAR" WHEELGUN RETURNS

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S SAINT VICTOR —TAKE TWO!

JAMES TARR REVIEWS SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S UPDATED AR-STYLE RIFLE

SAVAGE'S 110 ULTRALIGHT
ELITE RIFLE

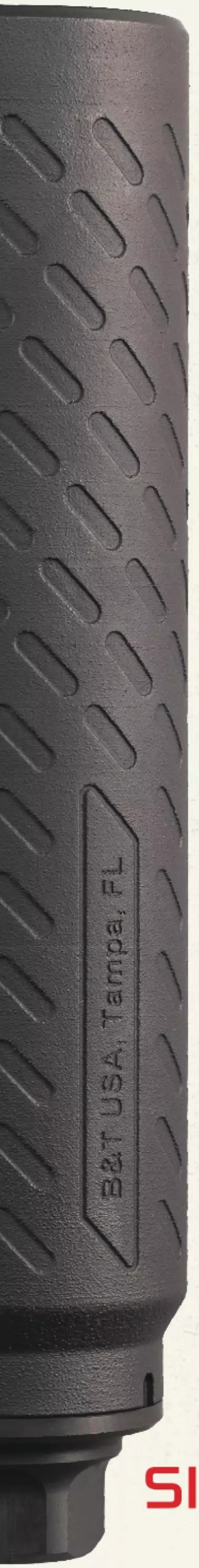
CENTURY ARMS' SMG-ISH AP5-SD
AN MP5SD-STYLE PISTOL

THE PANZER ARMS G3-STYLE
12-GAUGE SHOTGUN

- ***CARRYING CONCEALED***
  THE CONFUSING CARRY AMMO MENU
- ***MUSINGS FROM THE AMMO BUNKER***
  THE .50 GI
- ***IN HUSHED TONES***
  THE BANISH 45 SUPPRESSOR
- ***NFA COLLECTING***

THE MP40 SUBMACHINE GUN

- ***THE WAR GUNS***
  THE NORWEGIAN M/1914 PISTOL
- ***CODREA'S CORNER***
  TRUMP'S DC TAKEOVER WON'T BE A SUCCESS IF CONSTITUTION IS IGNORED
- ***SPECIAL REPORT:***
  4-H CLUBS TEACHING MARKSMANSHIP, GUN SAFETY, AND HUNTING



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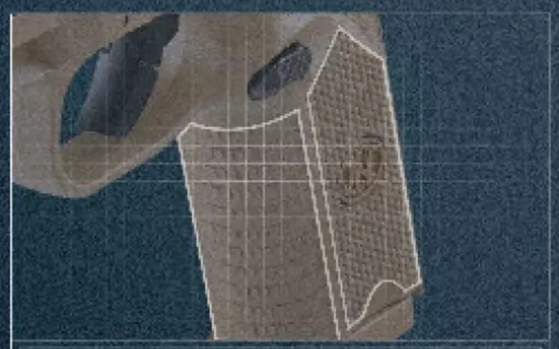

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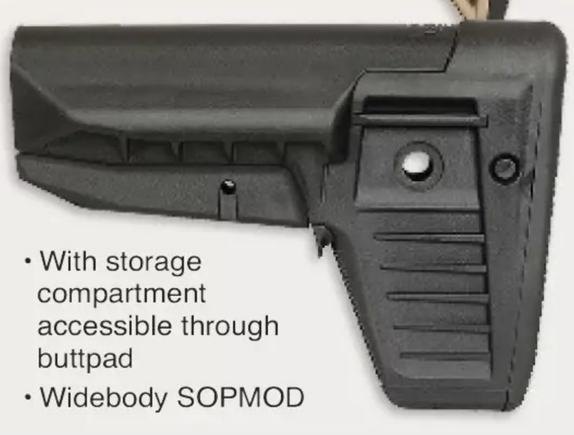

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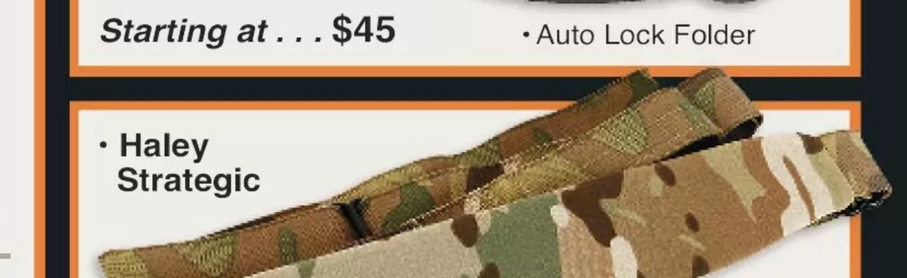

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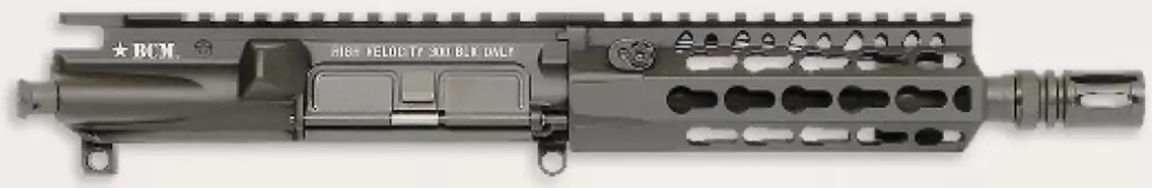

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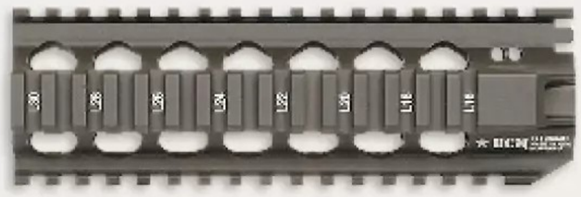

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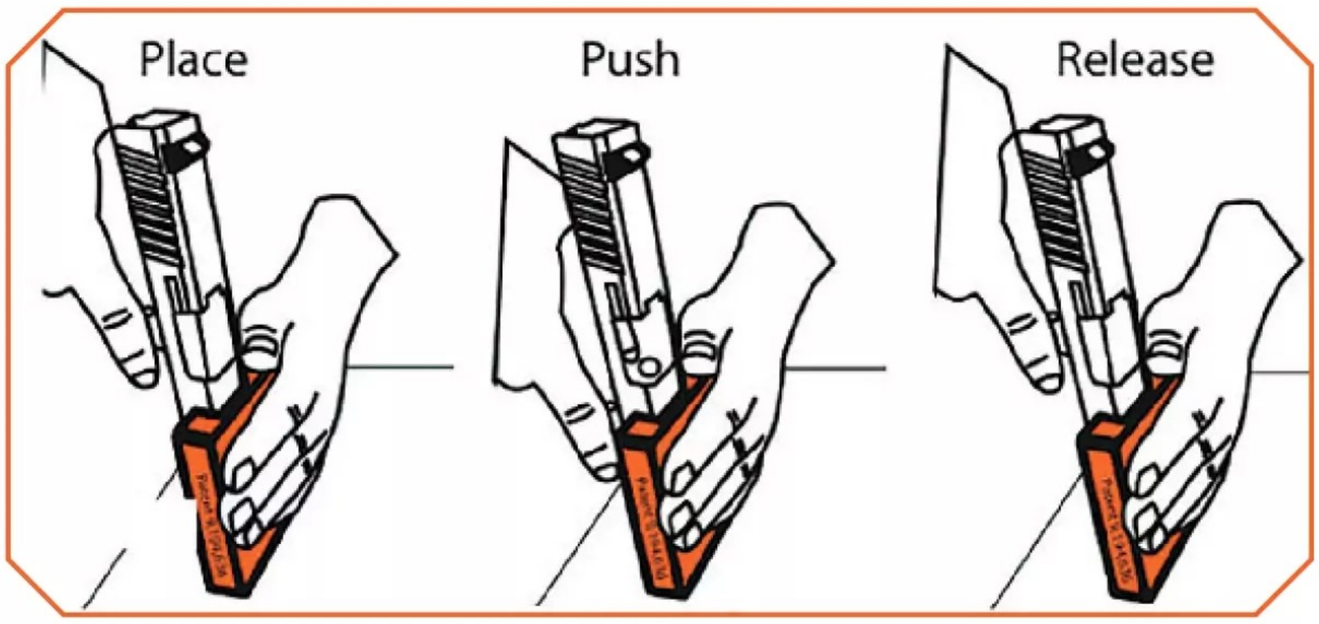

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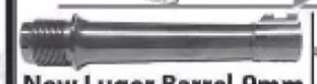

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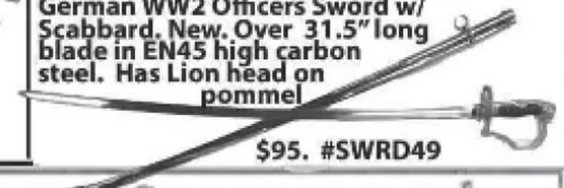

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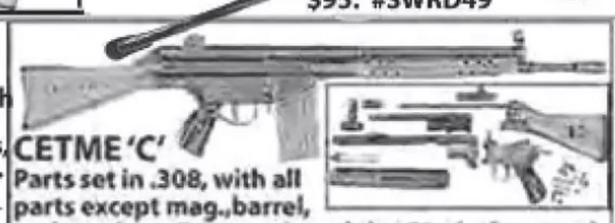

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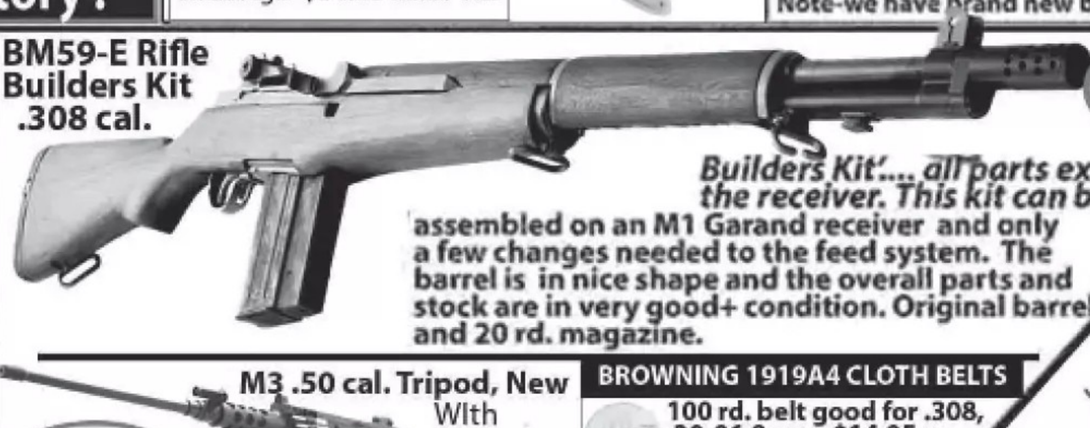
Set of M8 Grenade Launcher and the M15 sight set → **$100. #GL004-SET**

BM59-E Rifle Builders Kit .308 cal.



$595. #BM59002

Builders Kit'.... all parts except for the receiver. This kit can be assembled on an M1 Garand receiver and only a few changes needed to the feed system. The barrel is in nice shape and the overall parts and stock are in very good+ condition. Original barrel and 20 rd. magazine.

WW2 Panzerfaust Lanucher w/ rocket. Inert. Full size reproductions.

New in steel!

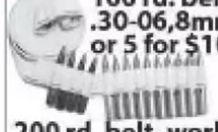
U.S. M76 Grenade Launcher for the M14 rifle. $39.95 #M14372

M3 .50 cal. Tripod, New

With Pintle

$1,295. #MNT151

BROWNING 1919A4 CLOTH BELTS



100 rd. belt good for .308, .30-06,8mm. $14.95 ea., or 5 for $10.99 each.

200 rd. belt, works with same calibers. $20.ea., or 5 at $16.50 each.

Panzerfaust Klein

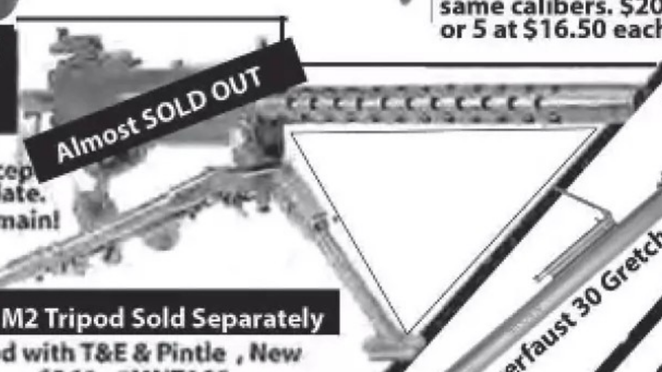
$165. #MISC684

U.S. M7 Grenade Launcher for the M1 Garand. New. $74.95 #RL020

Browning 1919A4 Parts Kit

.30-06 Cal. All parts except right side plate. Very few remain! $2,395. #A4047

Almost SOLD OUT



M2 Tripod Sold Separately

M2 Tripod with T&E & Pintle , New $360. #MNT155 (Tripod has WW2 Brass Data Plate)

M2 Tripod w/ pintle (no T&E) $280. #MNT149.

Panzerfaust 30 Gretchen

$180. #RL022 New in steel!

Enfield #4 Grenade Launcher. Used, Exc. condition. $49.95 #LE4056

FAL Grenade Launcher

Israeli military issue.

Used / Exc.cond.

$21.95 #FAL289

BM59 Folding Stock

Excellent Condition

Heavy duty stock that folds to the right of the rifle. Solid design makes this rigid and dependable. Comes attached to the stock with pistol grip. No handguard.

$695. #BM59044

Northwoods 'Victor' Hunting Knife

Our Favorite hunting knife because its size and heft in 'cleaving' are hard to beat. At an overall length of 16.5" with a blade of 11" in 3Cr13 Stainless Steel with finely honed edge and a sawback on the spine, it gives great standoff range , and yet excellent kinetic force of its 1.5 lb heft on the target

Comes w/ rosewood handle and a leather scabbard

$45. #BAY394

It throws pretty well too !

Steel 10 inch blade in 420C Steel with finely honed edge

Classic BOWIE KNIFE w/ Leather Scabbard

Brass Cross Guard and Rose Wood Grips

$35. #BAY389

10" Blade

$39.95 #BAY390

Best Price Around!

7" Blade

USMC FIGHTING KNIFE & SCABBARD

Classice combat knife of the Marines in the Pacific, Korea and Vietnam. Steel 3Cr13 blade with 'honed' edge. Leather embossed scabbard.

New

V25 STILETTO

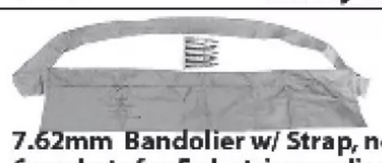
Straight out of the office of *'Dark Arts'*, this V25 Stiletto was born out of the union of the famous Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife & the U.S. V42 Stiletto. Double edged blade in 440 C steel I. Adopted by at least one African Army, this knife continues the legacy born of WW2 operations.

(Sold for 'utility use'.. Check your local/State laws on Stiletto use.)

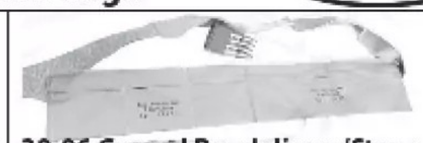
With..... Kydex Scabbard w/ Adjustable Belt Clip.

Overall Length @12" Long

*Blade 7"
*Finely Honed Edge on each side

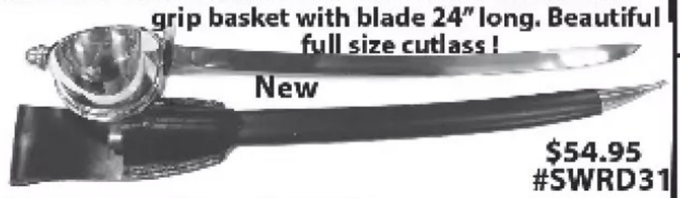


7.62mm Bandolier w/ Strap, new, 6 pockets for 5rd. stripper clips. $6.95 ea., or 10 to 24 pcs at $5.95, or 25+ at $4.95 ea. #MISC1067



.30-06 Garand Bandolier w/Strap, new. 6 pocket. $6.95 ea., or 10-24 pcs. at $5.95 ea.,or 25+ at $4.95 ea. #MISC1068

U.S. 1860 Naval Cutlass with leather scabbard. Brass grip basket with blade 24" long. Beautiful full size cutlass !



New

$54.95 #SWRD31

U.S. WW2/Korea Sniper Leather Cheek Pad. New $19.95 #GRD124

G3 Rifle Barrel,.308, new $189. #G3108
CETME C Barrel,.308 new $195. #CET019

Luger 9mm Barrel
Brand new and the perfect replacement for your old barrel.
$175. #LGR002

German M24 Stick Grenades
The infamous 'Potato Masher' -available in Tan & Green. $24.95 each
TAN #MISC464-T
GREEN #MISC464-G
Steel&wood Inert

new

U.S. M23A1 Smoke/Signal RIfle Grenade

Steel / Inert w/ markings.

new

$34.95 #AM242

U.S. M31 Rifle Grenade
Steel / Inert / New
Fits on Garand, Carbine,M14 grenade launchers.

$53.95 #MISC875

new

U.S. Claymore Mine with Carry Bag w/ Instructions sewn into the flap. New & full size.

New

Inert

$69.95 #MISC589

U.S. Grenades, New, Inert
A. V24 Vietnam Era $29.95 #AM216
B. M67 Baseball $29.95 #AM198
Training model in steel, GI
C. M26 Lemon Grenade in steel. $18.95 #AM191

M1A2 Grenade Projection Adapter

Original USGI in VG Condition

$55. #AM241

Sawback Jungle Machete with Scabbard

Very sharp 18" blade in 3Cr13 Steel

w/ double tooth Sawback

$35. #BAY393

U.S. M11A3 Rifle Grenade Inert USGI

$42.95 #AM125

New

WW2 Jap. Mortar Round for the Type89 Knee Mortar -Steel, Brass & Copper $65. #AM240

Inert

MP-40 Pair of Magazine Pouches available in green and tan. New.
GREEN Pair $19.95. #MP4025
TAN Pair $19.95 #MP4012

Japanese WW2 Type 97 Hand Grenade

New steel & brass. Inert

$35.95 #AM243

M1C Garand Flash hider, New. Original Style Sniper flash hider as used in WW2.
$125. #GRD388

M1 Garand Trigger Housing Assembly ready to install. Exc. condition.
$99.95 #GRD023

AR15 Flat Top Upper Receiver, new stripped with parkerized finish.
$64.95 #AR196

M1 Carbine Flash Hider new. $34.95 #CRB097

U.S. 1917 Browning Ammo Box New. $44.95 #MISC674

WW2 German 'Oak' Camo Jacket

- Reversible to Snow Camouflage
- Sizes: Lg,XL,2XL, & 3XL
- 4 Season Use

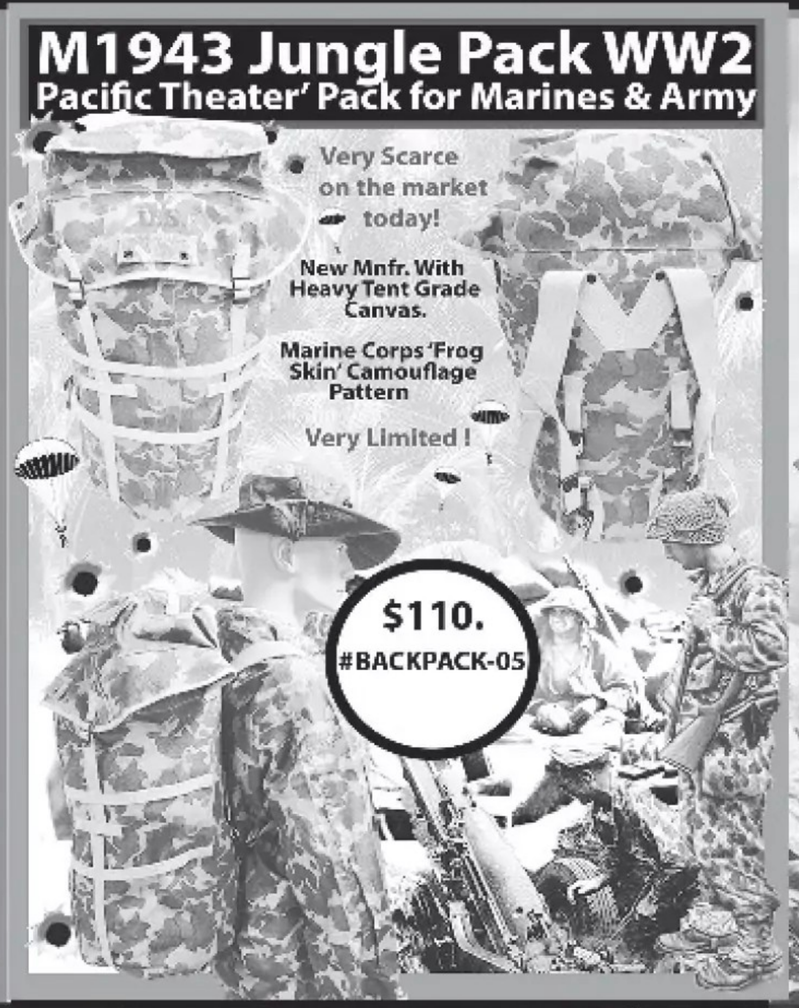
New

$85. #JKT-08

Very Limited !

M1943 Jungle Pack WW2

Pacific Theater' Pack for Marines & Army



Very Scarce on the market today!

New Mnfr. With Heavy Tent Grade Canvas.

Marine Corps 'Frog Skin' Camouflage Pattern

Very Limited !

$110. #BACKPACK-05

GERMAN WW2 SPLINTER JACKET

Reversible Fall/Winter

Sizes Available Large,XL,2XL & 3XL

New

New

$85. #JKT-07

Regrip your Govt. 1911A1 Pistol w/ these hardwood checkered grips. U.S. grips in the WW1 diamond pattern & USMC w/Eagle,Globe & Anchor.

U.S. Pair/ Grips $19.95
#GRP-162-US

USMC Pair/Grips $19.95
#GRP162-USMC

Heavy Duty Leather Double Magazine Pouch for 7 rd. Model 1911 single stack magazines. 'Lift the Dot' snap ensures a secure hold. Brown color and accepts up to a 2.5" wide belt on the back .

$19.95 #C45431

FFL

Rock Island 1911A1 Frame

Our Best Frame guaranteed to please any builder! Fully machined series 70 frame, CNC machined 4140 steel.

$179.95 #GUN012

Model 1911 Military Style Slide

Precision quality steel slide with sights is newly manufactured and not marked , so you can have your own marking engraved. This slide comes with the improved beveled ejection port. Perfect replacement slide of for your new 'build'

$124.95 #C45160

Pg. 3

WW1 German 'Egg' Grenade w/5 Second Fuze (Inert)

- Steel Replica
$34.95
#AM244

German Imperial 'EIER' Grenade

Classic U.S. Pineapple Grenade with steel body and original Govt. Fuse, Ring, Spoon.

Very Realistic & INERT.

$18.95 #AM026

U.S. WW1 Gas Grenades

U.S. MK2

First time offered ! Steel full size gas grenades of WW1. 2 versions available:

Hand Grenade $58.95 #AM227

Rifle Gas Grenade as fired by Springfield and P14/P17 rifles.

$45. #AM247

Please Check Our Web Site

Builders Unite !!! Save a bundle on your next Firearm , by building it with one our quality 'Kits' !

Model 1911 .45 cal. Builders Kit w/ Compensated Barrel

Looking for the perfect builder kit ? Look no further than this classic build of a Model 1911 pistol. All parts except frame. Economical way to obtain the pistol you want at a fraction of the cost of a new pistol. All parts are new 1911A1, pre '70' series Government model parts. This kit comes with a compensated 5" barrel in .45 cal., and a lightened trigger. Grips are WW1/2 wood diamond pattern. This will save you a bundle on your next 'pistol build'.

$349.95 #C45451

Model 1911 Parts Kit 'Minus' The Barrel, Frame & Slide

This set is perfect as a 'spare parts' pack for your firing 1911, or as a 'builders kit' for those who have chosen to purchase custom slides, frames, or barrels on their own. These parts are ready for installation. While parts are new, the plastic grips are USGI used 'take off' grips from guns that were deactivated.

$159.95 #C45096

Model 1911 Pistol 'Builders Kit'

Economical way to own a USGI style 1911 pistol ! Our kit includes all parts except for the Frame. All parts are new, standard 1911A1 / Pre 70' Government type, except for the plastic grips which are USGI original in very good condition. Kit includes one of our new GI type slides which is unmarked. Comes with standard 7 rd. magazine. Compare this kit to competition market prices and you'll see the great savings from Sarco !

On Sale ! $250. #C45097

Model 1911 Commercial Builders Kit- All parts,but the frame. This kit includes the Commercial new slide with wide serrrations for easy cocking. Also wood diamond grips.

$299.95 #C45218

Belgian FND LMG Parts Set in .308 Nato

Nice project kit without receiver or mag., but with all other parts and an excellent condition barrel in .308! Uses FAL mags ! Only a few remain! **$1,495. #MMP016**

Thread is .578x28

New
16" Carbine Barrel For Model 1911,.45acp
$95. #C45016

Threaded 1911 Barrels

1911,.45acp 5" Commander	$65. #C45325
1911,.45acp,5-3/4"	$80.#C45321
1911, 10mm, 5"	$65. #C45399
1911, 38 Super,5" Commander	$65. #C45386
1911,9mm, 5", Commander	$65. #C45385
1911,9mm, 5-3/4"	$66. #C45360

Threaded Cap .578x28 TPI $13. #C45363

>45ACP Standard Profile Model 1911 Barrels - New

5", Forged! $79.95 #C45450 (the Best!)

5" Standard with link & pin $69.95 #C45202

7" Forged $69. #C45014

See Web Site for more barrels in .45 and other calibers as well as compensated barrels !

Model 1911 Individual parts available on our Web Site — **SARCOINC.COM** — **Dozens of Model 1911 Holsters in stock**

Model 1911, 7 round single stack magazine for .45 ACP. Our own manufacture and heavily tested for fit and function. Springs alone have been tested to 20,000 cycles! Blued.

$6.95 #C45298

Model 1911 Custom Grips in Different Materials

Really great way to customize your pistol ! These grips are of the highest quality and usually sell for much more than here.

A. Pakka Wood grips, finely polished with a look of laminate with multi colors.
$14.95 #GRP162-PAKKA

B. Pearl composite grip
$14.95 #GRP162-PEARL

C. Black Aluminum diamond grips are very solid,well knurled.
$14.95 #GRP162 -BLK ALUM

D. Red Micarta G10 Grips ...our Favorite!
$14.95 #GRP162-RED G10

E. Walnut Diamond,traditional grips.
$14.95 #GRP162-WAL

Legal to use with the 16" Barrel

Pistol Not Included

Model 1911 Pistol Carbine Package

A superb way to get more fun from your Model1911 Pistol. This kit includes Stock, 16" .45ACP Barrel, Holster, & Converted Mainspring for attaching the stock. Easy to attach and loads of fun to shoot. When not in use, everything fits into the Holster.

$149.95 #C45392

Skeletal Hammer

Grip Safety w/dipped tail end

1911 Standard Hammer
$9.95 #C45053

1911 Standard Grip Safety
$12 #C45078

1911 Skeletal Hammer
$14.95 #C45256

Grip Safety w/Dip tail for Skeletal Hammer
$12. C45382

1911 Double Mag Pouch, WW2 Style Canvas,new. OD color.
$7.95
#C45280

ROCK ISLAND TAC ULTRA CS .45 ACP

Our favorite compact w/7rd mag.,.3.62" Brl., L PA MPS1 adjustable rear sight, fiber optic front sight and black parkerized finish with G10 Grips. The ideal compact ! $650. #GUN900

Model 1911A1 NON-FIRING

Display Pistol - Beautiful full sized metal replica w/ wood grips and cocking slide with trigger click. A great authentic display piece.

$124.95 #REP12

Canvas 1911 Holster 1916 style w/belt hooks & belt loop on back. Olive Color
$16. #HOL216

U.S. M16 Hip Holster Brown leather w/ leg tie. Right hand draw. Natural oiled appearance.
$20. #HOL211

Left Hand Draw Holsters are in Stock. Please Visit Web Site.

NFA rules apply

Model 1911 Wood Stock & Holster

Classic European hardwood stock in which the Model 1911 pistol can be stored and also attached to for firing. Comes with a converted Mainspring which serves as the connection of gun to stock . Easy to use and more fun to shoot with. Comes with leather holster.

Very limited. $149.95 #C45433-SET

Prices subject to change without notice. Please check our Web Site for current pricing.

Model 1911 Repair Kit - a *'must have'* if you are a shooter !

$22.50
#C45091

For purchasing Firearms, please visit our Web Site for details.

Model 1911 Pin Kit.... $4.85
#C45195

C&R Eligible

Springfield 1903A3 Rifle

Springfield 1903A3 Rifle rebuilt using a new 'old stock' USGI barrel. Any worn parts have been replaced and receiver professionally reconditioned by our gunsmith with experience on thousands of Springfields. Stocks are original GI in used 'good condition' . See Web Site for more info. Get one while we have them because they never stay in stock for long!

C&R Elegible $1,495. # GUN941 FFL

www.SARCOINC.com

Ph# 610.250.3960 50 Hilton St, Easton PA 18042

Phones Open: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5pm, Call for Showroom Hours info@sarcoinc.com

1903A3 Springfield Rifle Parts kit minus the barrel, receiver, & stock set. Great for rebuilding your rifle. $219.95 #SPF126

Rifle Bolts - *Get em' while they are still available !*

Lee Enfield #4Mk1 Bolt, Complete $125. #LE4014

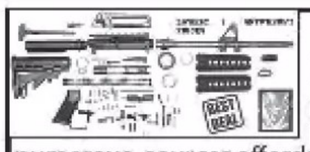
K98 Mauser complete Bolt assy. w/ turned down handle. $195. #MSR637

Springfield 1903 Bolt complete. $69.95 #SPF004

Carcano Rifle Bolt complete $70. #CC048

Enfield P14 Bolt, complete late, Exc. $100. #P14002

See Web Site for details



AR15 Builder's Parts Set

Truly affordable way to obtain the AR 15 you want , is to build it yourself. Our kit has all parts needed except the lower receiver which is available from numerous sources affordably. This set features a 16" ,5.56mm barrel, 4 position collapsible stock. and picitanny rail on a flat top upper receiver with removeable carry handle. **$385. #AR150**

Thompson 1928 SMG non-firing replica.

Full size metal and wood replica with 20rd. replica mag., & sling. Cocking mechanism and trigger pull work! A beautiful life like replica !

$229.95 #REP13

Pg.4

$59.95 #SW042

Smith & Wesson Victory Model SURVIVAL PACK (Model 10 / K Frame)

20 Original parts to keep your Revolver running !

New

M84 Scope, Base, & Mount

Want to build an M1 Garand Sniper Rifle ? This set will get you on your way. Brand new mnfr. Scope with rubber eye cup and Govt. ID plate like the original. Scope made w/ the same engineering drawings as the original scope. Scope optics are crystal clear w/2.5 power. Precision steel M1D Mount for the barrel and M1D Scope Clamp Included. New

$399. #GRD260

M16/AR15 Cleaning Kit with Pouch

Perfect for most firearms w/ barrels under 31 inches. Standard GI type cleaning kit w.rod assy.,bore brush, chamber brush,cln.brush, oil bottle, cln.patches, & pouch. $11.50 #CLN262

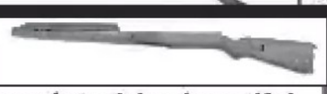
Springfield Rifle Barrel, 4 Groove, 1903A3

Very Limited Supply of these brand new .30-06 cal. barrels in the white. 4140 steel with 1 in 10 twist. Extractor groove cut , shallow chamber, front sight cut out for base. You can add an '03' rear sight sleeve to make this a standard 1903 barrel too ! Shallow Chamber' of .044" applied to handle variations in Springfield Rifle receivers. $149.95 #SPF387

Original USGI Springfield 1903A3 2 Groove Barrel Packed in grease since the 1940s, they are new, but need to be degreased. Might be the last of these new old stock' barrels on the market !

$189.95 #SPF080

German G43 Stock with Handguard



New stripped Beech hardwood stock is a beautiful replacement stock for your 'war worn' G43 rifle ! The stock is ready for installation of your barreled receiver. May require some fitting, but minor. This stock handles all G43 rifles except for the 'last ditch' 1945 issue model. Vey Limited. $295. #G43074

Lee Enfield Mk4 #1 Stock Set

Original used stock set in good condition. a terrific replacement stock set for up grading your old stock. While we try to match color of the wood, it is not always possible, so 'stain' colors may need to be redone to your personal preference.

$159.95 #LE4059

New

3.87x

Russian 'PE' Scope Ensemble

Early WW2 Sniper Scope model as used by some of the best Russian snipers like 'Zaytsev' of Stalingrad fame. Newly manufactured with mounts, both hex and round, lens covers,drill & tap set, and canvas cover. See more on Web site. For Mosin 91/30.

$449. #SCP064

New

Mosin PU Scope

Good for out-fitting Mosin Nagant rifles and SVT rifles. New manufacture w/ 3.5 x 20 optics & original style mount. See more on the Web Site

$135. #SCP063

New

AR15/M16 Scope for carrying handle mounting

Like the Vietnam era scope, this is newly manufactured with 4 x 20 optics. Perfect for AR15 marksmanship! $95. #SCP067

Mosin Nagant 91/30 Golf Ball Launcher - mounts onto the 91/30 rifle and using crimped 7.62x54 blanks, launching golf balls for hundreds of yards!

See details on our Web Site.

$69.95 #GL003

Loads of FUN!

Smith & Wesson Model 3000 Barrel 12 Ga. 18"

New 2-3/4" chamber

-Blued with Bead Sight

$45. #SW053

BRAND NEW !

Unstained

P17 Enfield Rifle Stock, Walnut

Precision milled from walnut, it has been made to GI Specs. The stock is unstained, and comes with stock bolt & nut. This is only for the stripped stock and as with all new stocks, may need slight fitting although we found that the stock fit our barreled actions perfectly. Perfect replacement stock ! $195. #P17089

WW2 M1/M2 Cabine Leather Scabbard

Newly manufactured heavy duty gun scabbard used with cavalry , jeeps, halftracks etc. Comes with straps and almost impossible to find originals.

$57.95 #CRB189

WW2 Cavalry & Vehicle Rifle Scabbard (Leather)

Heavy duty Leather gun scabbard offered in two versions: Lined and unlined. Newly manufactured and accurate to the original and comes with straps.

Brown leather LINED Scabbard $44.95 #GRD382

UNLINED Scabbard $39.95 #GRD137

Available in Tan or Brown Suede

'Savoy 7"

Med. to Full Sized Frame:

Tan Color #HOL220-TAN

BROWN COLOR #HOL220BROWN

$29.95 each

Compact

Wear on the vertical or diagonal

Full Size

Compact Sized Frame

TAN Color #HOL221-TAN

BROWN Color #HOL221BROWN

$29.95 each

For Medium to Large Frames... Semi Auto or Revolver.

Soft Suede w/ Rigid Leather Upper

For RIGHT & LEFT Hand Draw!

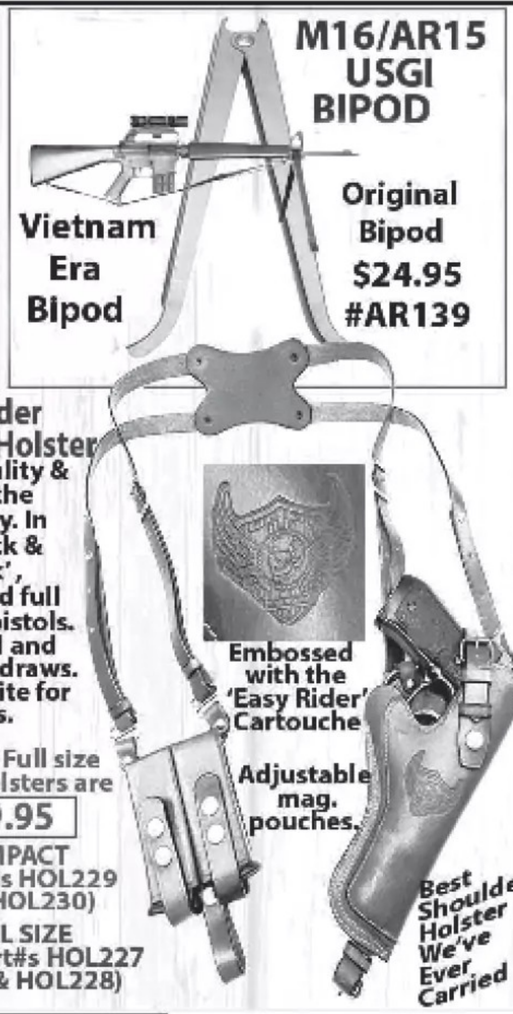
New

U.S. M73 Sniper Scope

Newly manufactured 2.5 power sniper scope with mount. Perfect for building that 1903A4 Springfield Sniper Rifle that you want!. Tube is 3/4" diameter.

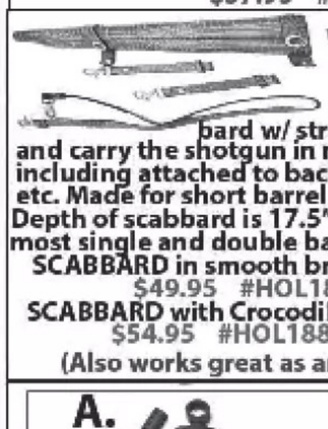
$365. #SCP039

M16/AR15 USGI BIPOD



Vietnam Era Bipod

Original Bipod $24.95 #AR139



Walk 'N' Dead SHOTGUN Scabbard

Leather scabbard w/ straps to outfit and carry the shotgun in numerous ways including attached to backpacks, vehicles etc. Made for short barrel shotguns. Depth of scabbard is 17.5" and handles most single and double barrel shotguns.

SCABBARD in smooth brown leather $49.95 #HOL188

SCABBARD with Crocodile pattern leather $54.95 #HOL188-CROC

(Also works great as an Arrow Quiver !)

MAG 58 TRIPOD

Hard to find light weight tripod for the MAG 58 Machine Gun, it is missing pins and elevation lock, but otherwise good to go.

$1,000.

#MNT013

Easy Rider Shoulder Holster

Highest quality & rugged for the hardest duty. In 'double stack & 'single stack', compact and full size frame pistols. In Left hand and Right hand draws. See Web Site for details.

Compact & Full size frame holsters are $59.95

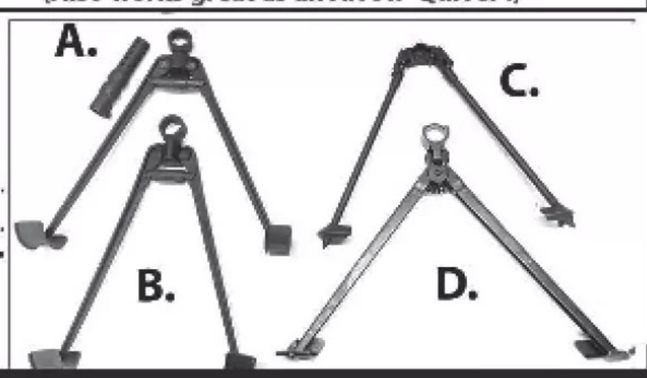
COMPACT (part#s HOL229 & HOL230)

FULL SIZE (part#s HOL227 & HOL228)

Embossed with the 'Easy Rider' Cartouche

Adjustable mag. pouches.

Best Shoulder Holster We've Ever Carried



A.

B.

C.

D.

FAL BIPODS, Original, 4 FLAVORS

A. FN original Heavy Barrel bipod with the original Flash Hider Bearing. Unavailable for years! $84. #FAL277

B. FN origianl Heavy Barrel Bipod w/o Flash hider bearing. $52. #FAL273

C. Dutch FAL Quick detach Bipod, rare original. $150. #FAL010

D. Israeli FAL H.B. Bipod $52. #FAL007

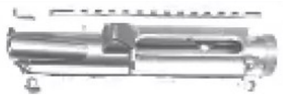
1903A3 Springfield 'C' Stock

Several Options !

1903A3 C stock (full pistol grip) Walnut stock, new, w/o handguard unstained. $169.95 #SPF276-W

1903A3 C stock w/ handguard, unstained. Walnut $199. #SPF278

1903A3 C stock w/o handguard,stained. Walnut $189.95 #SPF276-WS



AR15 Flat Top Upper Receiver in the white. 100% machined. **$45. #AR500**

AR15 Flat Top Upper Black ox. finish,complete $64.95 #AR196

Ruger 10/22™ Folding Paratrooper Stock

Stock and handguard set like the above item, but made for the Ruger 10/22 rifles. More fun, controlability & easily stored. Stock & handguard matching stain. $150. #STK362

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M1 Garand Stock & Handguard set. Retrofitted for .30-06 rifles from Italian .308 rifles.

.50 cal. Mount

New w/ T&E & Pintle

M3 Tripod $1,495. #MNT 153

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Smith & Wesson Victory holster for Model 10 Pistol. Available for right hand draw..
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Luger/P38 Afrika-Korp canvas holster-khaki
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'Savoy 7' Compact Hip Holster- can be worn on the vertical or at an angle. Canvas & leather. Very versatile. (For Right & Left hand draw)

Brown Compact
$29.95 #HOL221-Brown
Khaki Compact
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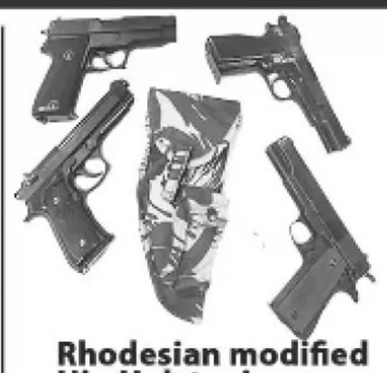
Right hand draw Brown Leather NEW

German Ingbert' Police Holster For Makarov, PP, & similar sized pistols.
$$24. #HOL207

'Featherweight' Shoulder Holster. Extremely lite & low profile. No bulk with ergonomic comfort. Fits Large frame pistols like Beretta 92, Model 1911, Hi-Power, etc. $19.95 ea.
Two Options:
Marked U.S. #HOL150
Marked USMC #HOL058
(Black, Synthetic, Right Hand Draw, New)

Skorpion Holster for hip. Original Czech. VG condition.
$29.95 #HOL160

Browning 1935 Hi-Power hip holster. Brown Leather, New.
$24.95 #HOL021



Rhodesian modified Hip Holster in grass pattern camouflage.
Handles Medium to Large frame pistols like SIG320,Hi Power, Beretta 92, Model 1911 etc. Can be worn on a belt or w/ MOLLE connection straps on back. Front has spare mag pouch. New
$22, #HOL173

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New canvas WW2 model holster.
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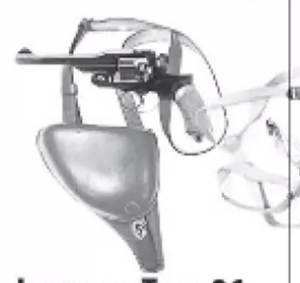
Skeletal Low Profile Leather holster for the P08 Luger & P38 pistols as well as similar sized pistols. Designed to be a German Paratroop holster, is truly a 'minimalist', and very secure style holster w/ no bulk... just simiplicity ! Brown, new. $16.95 #HOL109



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Basket weave leather holster is beautifully crafted to last a lifetime. Brown. New
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WW1 & 2

German Kriegsmarine C96 Mauser

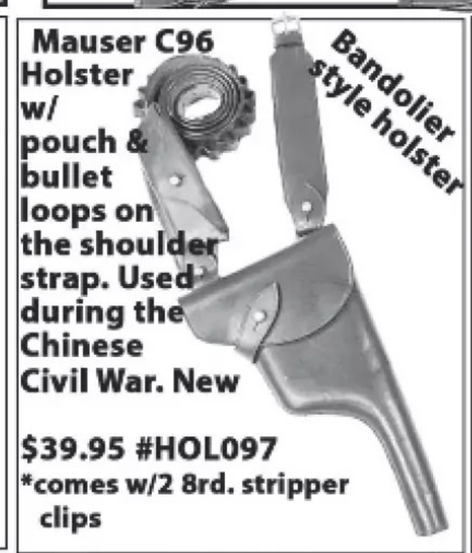
HOLSTER #HOL215
$34.95

U.S. Philippines C96 Hip Holster

Early 1900s Officer holster as used with acquired C96 pistols after the Philippines was liberated from Spain. U.S. marked. Belt loop on back.
$40. #HOL113
***comes w/2 8rd. stripper clips.**

Mauser C96 Stock & Holster

For C96 pistols in 7.62 x25mm. Gun can be stored in the stock. WW1 era use. New
$149.95 #MSR340
***Includes cleaning rod !**



Mauser C96 Holster w/ pouch & bullet loops on the shoulder strap. Used during the Chinese Civil War. New

Bandolier style holster

$39.95 #HOL097
***comes w/2 8rd. stripper clips**

Mauser Schnellfeuer Wood Stock & Holster

For the Auto. Mag. Fed C96

WW1 design. New
$275. #MSR667B

Mauser C96 Holster for stock, with cleaning rod incl.
$29.95 #MSR335

Classic P08 1940s HardShell Luger Holster

Hardshell Holster w/ markings

Black Leather
$24.95
#LGR078

Uhlan Cavalry Luger holster w/front and side mag pouches Heavy Duty WW1 holster. New.
$29.95 #HOL039
****comes with shoulder strap***

Sleek Low Profile Luger Holster acts almost like a base pad to securely attach your Luger to. Attaches to belts.
$12.95 #LGR169

WW1 Canvas Luger Holster. Khaki color,New
$22.95
#HOL055
****For standard luger***

Chocolate Brown standard Luger Hardshell Holster. W/ WW2 markings.
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Military hardshell style
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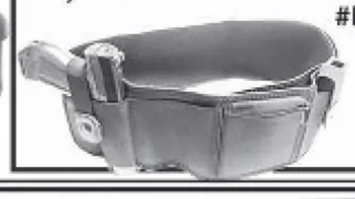
$24.95 #HOL248



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Traditional spear of the Roman Legions. Wood shaft with iron shaft w/tapered spear head. 7 feet long.
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Swiss Luger Holster with shoulder strap. and extra magazine pouch. Heavy duty just like the Swiss Luger ! $39.95 #HOL164
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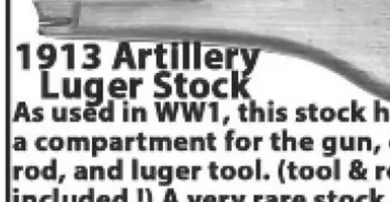
Type 14

Japanese Nambu Hip Holster - clam shell design holster of WW2 . New.
$40. #HOL001

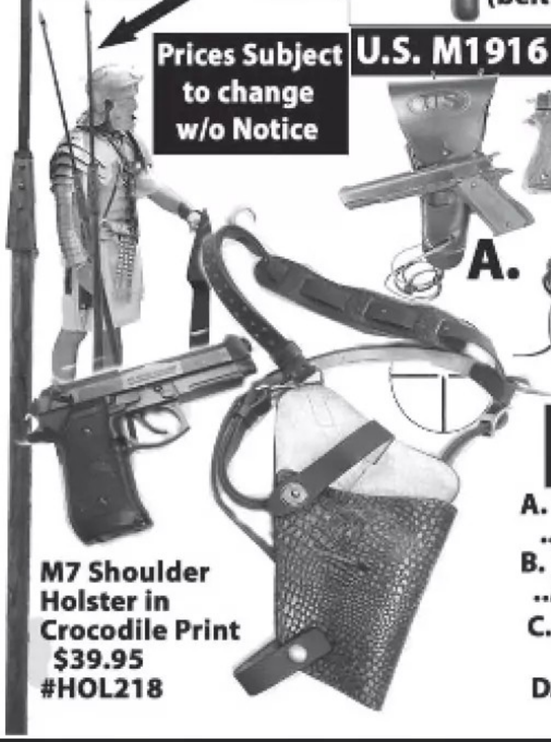
French 1873/92 Shoulder Holster
Revolver holster w/ammo pouch & shoulder strap.
$55. #HOL085



1913 Artillery Luger Stock
As used in WW1, this stock has a compartment for the gun, cln. rod, and luger tool. (tool & rod are included !) A very rare stock . Comes with leather holster.
$295. #LGR203

New

Prices Subject to change w/o Notice

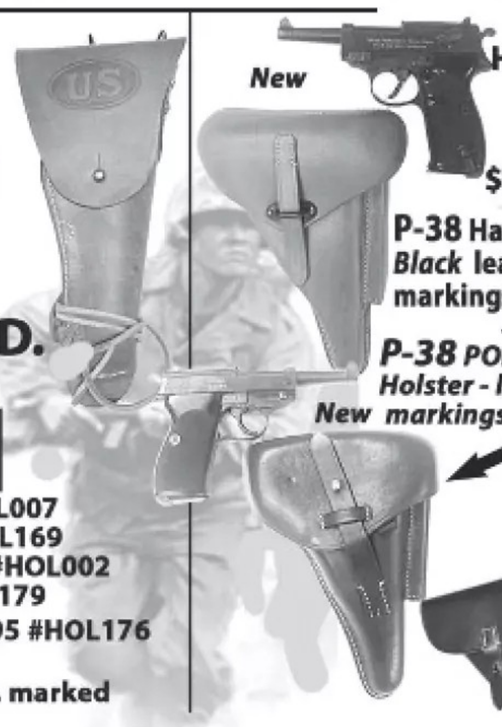


M7 Shoulder Holster in Crocodile Print
$39.95 #HOL218

U.S. M1916 HIP HOLSTERS

A.
B.
C.

M1916 Hip Holsters for the Government Model 1911 Pistol - Several Variations
A. Black,U.S.,Right Hip $23.#HOL007
....Also USMC marked $25.#HOL169
B. Brown,U.S.,Right Hip $19.95 #HOL002
..Also USMC marked $25. #HOL179
C. Natural color, Right Hip $22.95 #HOL176 U.S. marked.
D. Natural OILED, Right Hip,U.S. marked $20. #HOL211



D.

New

Walther P-38 Hardshell Holster
'Afrikakorps' Brown. W/ WW2 markings.
$24.95 #HOL149

P-38 Harshell Holster in *Black* leather with WW2 markings. $18.95 #P38054

P-38 POLICE WW2 Hardshell Holster - leather with WW2 New markings. $24.95 #HOL114

P38 Softshell Holster w/ WW2 Markings $18.95 #HOL080

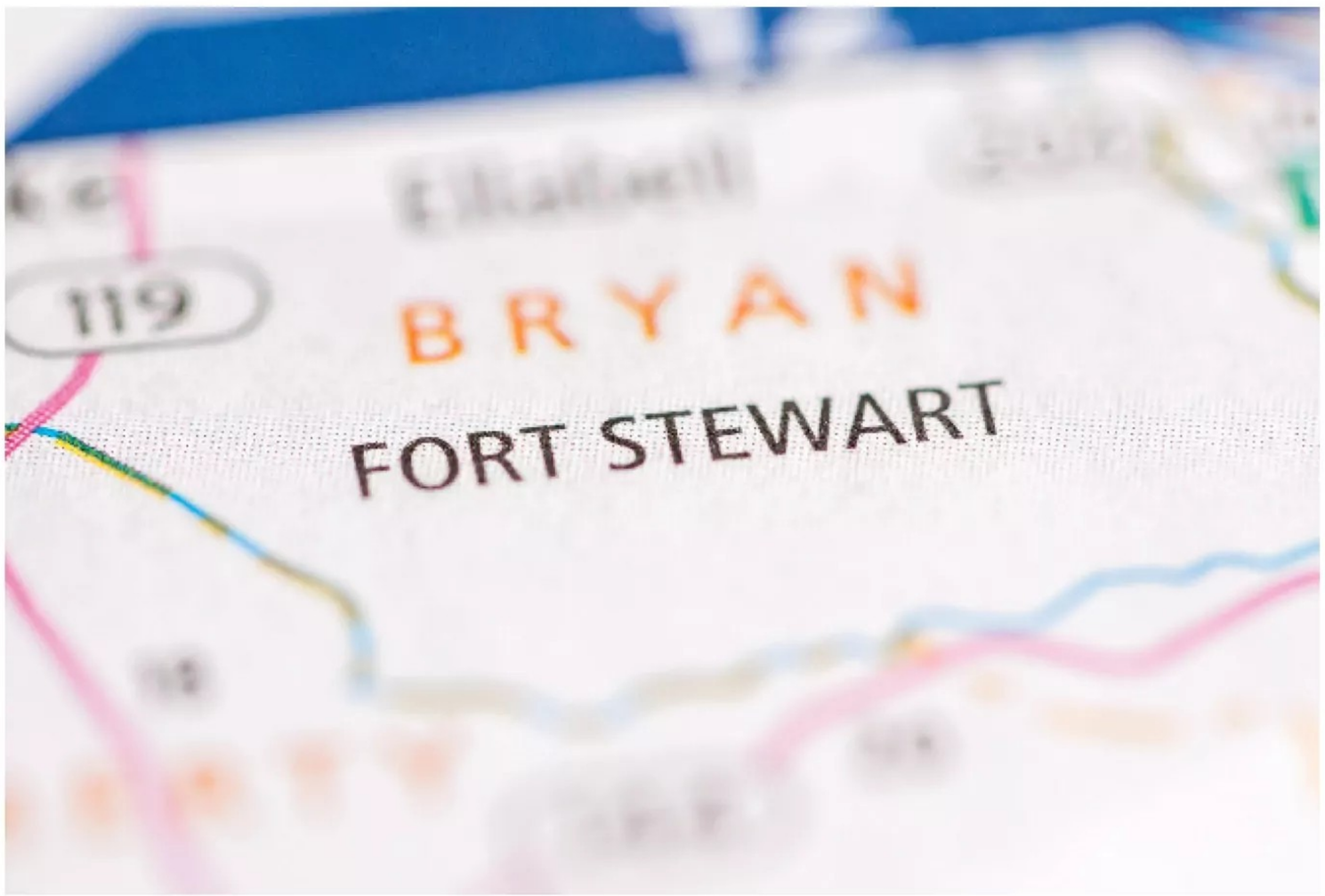
U.S. WW2 Leather Jeep Scabbard for Thompson SMGs
Heavy duty brown leather scabbard as used on Harleys & Jeeps. $59.95 #TMP193

New

FORT STEWART SHOOTINGS
RECALL FORGOTTEN TRUMP COMMITMENT

President Trump Promised to Allow Weapons Carry (and Later CCW) by Military Personnel on Bases Way Back in 2015

By David Codrea,
Gun Politics Field Editor



Most soldiers on Fort Stewart, as well as all other U.S. bases, are still unarmed "sitting ducks." How many more will die before the nonsense stops? (SevenMaps/Shutterstock)

"Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll highlighted acts of heroism made by soldiers at Fort Stewart during a shooting at the base on Thursday," *Fox News* reports. "Driscoll spoke of six soldiers who 'put themselves in harm's way' during the attack that saw five people shot. He said one of the soldiers, who went unnamed, tackled the alleged shooter, U.S. Army Sergeant Quornelius Radford."

While it will be interesting to find out, the question isn't so much why Radford went on a rampage as why he succeeded in shooting five victims and had to be subdued by hand, especially after high profile base shootings. As *CNN* reported in a recap of recent military base shootings:

In 2009, an American Muslim psychiatrist major at Fort Hood opened fire killing 13 people and an unborn child and wounded more than 30 others.

In 2013, a defense contractor and Navy reservist entered the Washington Navy with a sawed-off shotgun and killed a dozen people, wounding eight others.

In another Fort Hood rampage, this time in 2014, a soldier opened fire killing three and injuring 16 with a handgun.

In 2019, a sailor at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam naval shipyard shot and killed two civilian Defense Department employees and wounded another before committing suicide.

And two days later, a visiting Saudi Arabia Royal Airforce officer armed with a handgun killed three Pensacola Naval Air Station sailors and wounded eight others.

(Not mentioned in the *CNN* report were 2015's Chattanooga shootings, where Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, "motivated by foreign terrorist propaganda," opened fire on two separate military installations, crashing his car through the gates of one, resulting in his killing five and injuring two.)

All of this was made possible because the armed forces generally do not trust their forces with arms, at least not private ones. As *Military.com* has reported, "While post commanders by and large determine their own regulations for acceptable behavior on the base they oversee, many locations do not allow any personal firearms to be brought on the installation or stored in base housing or barracks. Troops living in barracks or other similar quarters who own personal weapons typically must register and store them in a base firearms storage facility."

There are some exceptions, particularly for law enforcement, established in 2016 by DOD Directive 5210.56, "Arming and the Use of Force." The directive also "Provides guidance for

permitting the carrying of privately owned firearms on DoD property by DoD personnel for personal protection purposes that are not associated with the performance of official duties," but generally speaking, expect on-base military personnel not to be armed unless under command with issued weapons.

Why this is still the case is a question for President Donald Trump, who has spoken on several occasions in the past about changing DOD policy.

"No, not optional. As Commander-in-Chief, I would mandate that soldiers remain armed and on alert at our military bases," Trump replied. "President Clinton never should have passed a ban on soldiers being able to protect themselves on bases. America's Armed Forces will be armed. They will be able to defend themselves against terrorists. Our brave soldiers should not be at risk because of policy created by civilian leadership. Political correctness has no place in this debate."

it's pretty bad, and I'm going to look at that whole policy on military bases," Trump once more pledged.

The Fort Stewart shootings are a wake-up call and a reminder of an unfulfilled promise from his first term. Were they just words? Will the president stop talking and start doing, and order Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to implement a far-reaching policy change that does more than thank military personnel for their service while leaving them at heightened risk? So far, at the

The Fort Stewart shootings are a wake-up call and a reminder of an unfulfilled promise from his first term.

In 2015, *AmmoLand* editor Fredy Riehl interviewed a campaigning Donald Trump and asked him directly, "Would you have a problem allowing our military bases to set their own polices with regard to personal weapons and do away with the 'Gun Free Zones' death trap?"

"Trump Pushes to Allow Troops to Carry Personal Weapons on Bases," *Military.com* followed up in 2018. President Donald Trump said Friday that he would review policies that keep troops from carrying personal weapons onto military bases. "If we can't have our military holding guns,

time of writing, per CSPAN, Trump's comments have been limited to promising that the shooter will be "prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Will any of the major "gun rights organizations" remind him of his prior commitments and call on their members to urge the president to act? FN

FLORIDA'S GOP STATE ATTORNEY BAKKEDAHL

CITES ANTI-2A ORGANIZATION, EVERYTOWN, TO DEFEND INFRINGEMENTS

Will Florida Ever Fix Their Anti-Gun Republican Problem?

By David Codrea, Gun Politics Field Editor

(helloRuby/Shutterstock)

"BREAKING NEWS," Luis Valdes, Gun Owners of America's Florida State Director and Co-Chair of Fuerza 2A. alerted members at X.com. "Florida Republican State Attorney Thomas Bakkedahl cites Everytown for Gun Safety in defense of the Under-21 Carry Ban & Open Carry Ban."

"@GunOwners sues FL & the FL GOP SAO cites extremely anti-gun org in their defense of unconstitutional gun control!" Valdes elaborated.

"The FL Republican State Attorney's Office … is stating to the court that Open Carry has no protection under the Second Amendment," he further explained. "What? So, the Minute Men at Lexington & Concord concealed carried their five-foot long muskets?"

The case, filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, is *Gun Owners of America, et al. v. Sheriff Richard R. Del Toro*. Plaintiffs, including GOA, the Gun Owners Foundation, and Palm Beach County resident Richard Hughes, are suing Sheriff Del Toro and Bakkedahl, "in his official capacity As the State Attorney for

the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida, and the State Attorney's Office for the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida," arguing the open carry ban violates the Second and Fourteenth Amendments. (Where the "under-21 carry ban" Valdes referenced in his X.com post comes into this is one of the citizens referenced under "Parties" in the Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief is an 18-year-old Eagle Scout and GOA member prohibited by Florida law from both obtaining a Concealed Weapon License and from openly carrying.)

Defendants citing Everytown is explained in a footnote to a plaintiff reply that "The colonists who gathered on the town greens at Lexington and Concord were not strangers to open carry." GOA points that out, noting, "Although Defendants present a variety of purported historical records, they—unlike Plaintiffs—have failed to provide original source documents for any of them. Rather, they simply copy and paste from an academic paper written by anti-gun group Everytown for Gun Safety…"

It's worse than that. Arguing for citizen disarmament edicts "enacted in the mid-to-late nineteenth century" (instead of relying on what the Founders understood when they ratified the Second Amendment in 1791), the mindset being defended in their joint response by Sheriff Del Toro and State Attorney Bakkedahl is unmistakably, pejoratively, and desperately hostile against armed citizens.

"No man amongst us carries it about with him, as one of his every day accoutrements—as a part of his dress—and never we trust will the day come when any deadly weapon will be worn or wielded in our peace loving and law-abiding State, as an appendage of manly equipment," the defendants quoted from the North Carolina Supreme Court in the 1843 case of *State v. Huntly*.

"It is apparent to every good citizen and man of sense, that any gentleman would blush and feel deeply ashamed to be caught parading the streets on a public occasion, or, for the matter of that, on a private occasion, with a revolver swinging around his neck like a powder horn, or sticking vulgarly and threateningly out of his hip pocket, making him the picture of a pirate," the defendants quoted again, this time from an 1879 South Carolina grand jury statement.

These offensive "justifications" being argued by Florida Republicans sound like the kind of polemics to be expected from rabid Moms Demand Action zealots and ranting Democrat demagogues. That they would be made in an administration where Gov. Ron DeSantis is widely touted as being "pro-gun" and where Florida State Attorney General James Uthmeier recently refused to defend the under-21 long gun ban enacted after the Parkland shootings, goes beyond cognitive dissonance. Especially after seeing the outrage generated by then-Governor Rick Scott and then-state AG Pam Bondi (now presenting herself as the Trump Administration's Second Amendment watchdog) jumping on the gun control bandwagon in the aftermath.

Alienating the core constituency of gun owners is especially incongruous with the desire of Republicans to maintain dominance in Florida state politics, but recent statements by Florida Senate President Ben Albritton on his opposition to open carry and campus carry legislation reflect an arrogance on the part of those who feel their seats are safe.

"I trust my law enforcement officials," Albritton, from a solidly Republican district whose term will extend to 2028, told reporters. "They oppose it … and I stand with them today in opposition."

"This issue is deeply personal for me and millions of gun owners throughout Florida. Despite Florida's pro-Second Amendment image, this open carry ban reveals a stark contradiction, placing it alongside restrictive states like New York and Illinois," Valdes tells *Firearms News*. "We are determined to reclaim a right that was unjustly taken, and we will persist until every Floridian can carry openly, freely, and in full alignment with the Constitution."

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"We are determined to reclaim a right that was unjustly taken, and we will persist until every Floridian can carry openly, freely, and in full alignment with the Constitution."

Also see:

Docket, G*un Owners of America, Inc. v. Del Toro Jr.*, Court Listener: (https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/69018081/gun-owners-of-america-inc-v-del-toro-jr/) FN

GUN POLITICS **By David Codrea** | Gun Politics Field Editor

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 onTwitter: @dcodrea and Facebook.*

TRUMP'S DC TAKEOVER

WON'T BE A SUCCESS IF CONSTITUTION IS IGNORED

"DC arrests surpass 1,000 as Trump-backed crackdown enters 12th homicide-free day," *Fox News* reports. "U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro said the people of Washington DC feel a lot safer under the crackdown."

It is remarkable. After over 50 years of DC home rule, the nation's capital has devolved into a violent, crime-ridden hellhole, primarily in (but by no means limited to) predictable areas. A no-nonsense approach to predation is not only needed but also demanded by the Constitution, with its preamble outlining the purpose of assigning it powers, in this case "to insure domestic tranquility [and] secure the Blessings of Liberty." You can't do either if mutts who've been lifelong generational social drains can carjack and murder you at will.

Naturally, MAGA "law-and-order conservatives" are elated with these developments, and just as expectedly, Democrats are livid, fudging crime stats and quick to claim things are worse in other cities (ignoring those are also run by their party).

"D.C. Democrats Are Furious at Trump for Stopping All the Homicides," *The Federalist* notes. And rather than welcome a drastic reduction in what they call "gun violence," Moms Demand Action reposted a "tweet" by an anti-gun politician claiming, "Posting troops in cities, undermining community trust never makes sense and is nothing more than a stunt."

Crime is down and the enemy is furious. What's not to like? At the risk of infuriating MAGA loyalists, in a word, infringements.

U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Jeanine Pirro, speaks during a President Donald Trump press briefing regarding the DC Home Rule Act on August 11, 2025. (Joey Sussman/Shutterstock)

"Dozens of ATF Agents Descend on DC Neighborhoods as Part of Trump Takeover," *The Reload* reported. "Residents have already filmed ATF agents going door-to-door in DC neighborhoods as part of the operation."

"We will continue to seize all illegal and unlicensed firearms, and to vigorously prosecute all crimes connected with them," Donald Trump-appointed US Attorney Jeanine Pirro declared. "If anyone is carrying a weapon illegally, they will absolutely be charged."

Okay, well they're bad guys, right? They're being stopped, aren't' they? What's the problem? The issue is that while a "prohibited person" having a gun is a crime, it shouldn't be, at least according to the Second Amendment and to the understanding the Founders had at the time it was ratified. There is no evidence from that period that citizens who were not in custody who had not been proven criminals, and convicts who had served their time and been released, were prohibited from owning guns. Ditto for teenagers, many of whom were militia members, and/or had enlisted in the Revolutionary War.

That, and there is no enumerated power in the Constitution delegating the authority to disarm them, in the absence of any other crime, to the executive or any branch of government. And that's something some of us have been reminding whomever we can of for decades, speaking out against Project Exile, a federal program mandating tough penalties for felons caught in possession of a gun that had been enthusiastically promoted by the National Rifle Association.

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NOW WHO'S COMPENSATING

INTEGRALLY COMPENSATED

ENHANCED CONTROLS

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The program, when adopted by a state, also assisted federal prosecutors in enforcing unconstitutional federal gun laws by mandating that local prosecutors turn any state charges over to the ATF for review.

"We condemn any program that involves enforcing unconstitutional 'laws', even if such 'laws' are enforced only against violent criminals," the Project Exile Condemnation Coalition, signed by, Larry Pratt for Gun Owners of America, Aaron Zelman of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, and others (me included) declared almost 25 years ago. "Unconstitutional 'laws' are illegal, harmful to public safety, tyrannical, and are inevitably enforced against ordinary, non-criminal citizens."

While President Trump has made some positive moves concerning the right to keep and bear arms in the nation's capital, including streamlining the concealed carry permit process (bearing in mind that permits are also infringements) and "floated the idea of eliminating gun-free zones on the metro and forcing D.C. to reciprocate carry permits from other states," the act of deploying ATF to carry out Pirro's mandate to go after "unlicensed" firearms and charge anyone caught carrying without a permit once more proves out the Coalition's predictive concerns.

As an aside, it's particularly puzzling seeing how many MAGA-loving gun owners have embraced Judge Jeanine. They're evidently unaware that, current "pro 2A" platitudes about it being a "natural right" aside, she has never renounced "launching" a County Gun Amnesty Buy Back Program "to get illegal and unwanted weapons off the streets" in 2000, and joining with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence in 2004 to demand "renewal and strengthening of the federal assault weapons ban."

Showing either personal growth or at least a self-serving understanding of what the administration wants her to say, Pirro recently announced her office "would not move forward with stand-alone charges for registered long guns" carried in public. "Criminal culpability is not determined by the instruments people employ but by the intent and conduct of the actor," she declared, and that goes back to concerns that her office is doing just that. After all, if an armed criminal is charged, it should be for the crimes he was committing with the gun.

As for just being a felon, Attorney General Pam Bondi is in the process of defining who is eligible for rights restoration, but so far, the official policy has not been released and my Freedom of Information Act request to determine eligibility criteria has passed the required-by-law response date with no answer (with a complaint pending). Presumably, the policy will not include those convicted of violent crimes, which opens the question of how, considering United States Sentencing Commission statistics for violent offenders (approximately 2/3 recidivate) they can logically and responsibly be considered "safe" enough to uncage when their sentences end.

It's undeniable, what Trump apologists say, that his administration has done more to advance the Second Amendment than any other administration would even talk about, let alone enact. The problem is, we seem to be in some kind of bipolar good action/bad action loop.

One day we see AG Bondi sending out an all-hands memo declaring, "For too long, the Second Amendment, which establishes the fundamental individual right of Americans to keep and bear arms, has been treated as a second-class right." On another day, we see ATF declaring "Many people attempt to conceal firearms on their person or belongings which puts everyone involved at risk." Then we see the government declare the end of "zero tolerance" for gun dealers with minor paperwork errors, followed shortly thereafter with an alert from GOA warning that DOJ is still fighting against efforts to "kill [it] in court, once and for all."

"So, would you rather have Kamala Harris?" those sensitive to criticism about Donald Trump, but with no real argument to defend him on 2A backsliding will ask. No, of course not, and that's not the point, it's a distraction and an attempt to redirect without confronting what we, as gun owners, must.

The point here is to get the failings and disconnects corrected, and we can't do that if pointing them out is met with vindictive fury at the messenger instead of constructive plans to right the course.

One plan is to include representatives from various "gun rights" groups on AG Bondi's Second Amendment Task Force, currently only comprised of government employees beholden to the feeding hand. Gun owners deserve seats at that table and their participation in analyzing and prioritizing bills, lawsuits, and regulations, in identifying opportunities and threats, and in advising on judicial and other federal nominees, would help the administration avoid actions that contradict its fine public promises. It would also mean that we'd get more than scraps swept from that table.

What's a bad plan is to offer nothing other than excuses and unmerited praise, and to shout down anyone protesting various disappointments so that mistakes don't get corrected and broken promises don't get fixed.

If the shared goal is to keep gun-grabbing Democrats from gaining power, where they will undo and reverse progress made to date in advancing the right to keep and bear arms, which plan do you think has a better chance of making positive gains?

Mr. Franklin once said something about people who give up essential liberty for temporary safety not deserving either. The president's needed actions cleaning up the nation's capital can't be at the expense of any part of the right to arms and if gun owners don't remind him of that they'll all get what they deserve. FN

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SPECIAL REPORT

By Darwin Nercesian | News Field Editor

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.*

4-H CLUBS TEACHING MARKSMANSHIP SKILLS, GUN SAFETY, AND HUNTING TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Investing in the Education of America's Youth Is the Best Way Forward.

The .22 LR rifle is the backbone of 4-H shooting instruction. (Jason L. Price/Shutterstock)

4-H Clubs, as we know them today, began on January 15, 1902, in Springfield Township, Ohio. The superintendent of schools at the time, Albert Belmont Graham, organized around thirty boys and girls in the basement of the county courthouse, intending to share information and learn practical skills such as harvesting corn, planting gardens, testing soil samples, tying knots, and identifying wildlife. Since that time, 4-H has grown from a small local group into a national organization dedicated to building stronger communities through youth development, leadership, civic engagement, healthy living, and science, with the program's foremost philosophy rooted in the idea of hands-on learning.

I recently discovered that some 4-H Clubs offer a Shooting Sports Program, where boys and girls, aged 8-18, are taught the fundamentals of safe firearms handling and marksmanship. The organization even hosts a 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship every June in Grand Island, Nebraska, where youth from all over the United States compete in various disciplines, including compound and recurve archery, air rifle, air pistol, .22 rifle, .22 pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, and hunting skills. And while that spirit of competition is very much alive in 4-H, the tone of the event is one of showcasing skills, sharing information, learning from others, developing relationships, and having fun in a safe and positive environment.

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program aims to instill competency and confidence in young shooters. To achieve this, the program is built around traditional types of firearms and cartridges that one might expect to learn on, such as the .22 Long Rifle. With a less pronounced sound signature and minimal recoil, this introduction to shooting enables kids to develop their skills in a comfortable environment that is inclusive for all students on the range, regardless of their level of skill or experience.

Before you rush to the nearest 4-H Club to enroll your young ones in a shooting sports program, it is essential to understand the nuances that make such a hidden gem exist. 4-H Clubs are run by volunteers who have been cleared to work with children and have been certified in the discipline they intend to instruct.

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These volunteers are the lifeline of 4-H Clubs, with the requisite skills, desire to teach, and the right attitude being the key to making programs available nationwide.

I spoke to Lindsay Van Gundy, the 4-H Shooting Sports and Natural Resources Coordinator for the state of Ohio. She explained to me that each discipline requires a minimum of two instructors on the range: one certified in the type of firearm and level being taught, and the other serving as a range safety officer. This means that a club with a single instructor certified to administer a basic rifle course will not be able to offer additional courses until they complete those certifications, or other volunteers step up to take on the responsibility. Club staff and members are also insured, with rates pre-negotiated through the 4-H national organization.

Lindsay, who grew up in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, tells me it is the fastest-growing curriculum the organization offers. While I was thrilled to hear it, I wasn't all that surprised, as this mirrors the overall increase in shooters and those who carry daily since 2020, including previously underrepresented groups like women who are now stepping up in greater numbers to take responsibility for their personal defense.

Aside from the availability of volunteers, clubs differ from one another based on organizers' ability to garner support, whether it be from local businesses, manufacturers of firearms and related equipment, fundraisers, or through grant writing. I spoke to Kevin Bailey, the Organizational Adviser for Sheffield Target Masters, a 4-H Shooting Sports Program in Ashtabula County, Ohio. His club supplies eye and ear protection, firearms, and ammunition for students to use in class, leaving kids and their families nothing more than to sign up, show up with a great attitude, learn, and have fun. Kevin tells me that thanks are in order to the community, whose support makes the program possible, including special thanks to Susan Walters, who runs Ohio Gun Shows and donates a table to Sheffield Target Masters to help with fundraising efforts.

So, what happens when there isn't a 4-H Club in your area that offers shooting sports? Start one! You will obviously need to have a place to meet and shoot, with many venues hosted by established gun and archery clubs. Once you have made tentative arrangements, the next step is to establish contact with your County 4-H Educator, who will walk you through the process of getting approved as a volunteer. Once approved, you will need to attend Level 1 training to certify for any disciplines you intend to teach, from crossbows and archery to pistol, rifle, shotgun, and muzzleloader. Completion of your certification and compliance with all 4-H standards open the doors to an exciting adventure, teaching the leaders of tomorrow the skills they need to become positive and productive role models throughout their community.

The four "H"s stand for: Heart, Head, Hands, and Health. (Michael LaMonica/Shutterstock)

As a parent of young children, I can appreciate what 4-H is offering here. For many kids, structured outdoor activities increase confidence, helping them break out of their shells with relative ease. This positive exposure to achievement at an early age reinforces a young mind's drive to excel, qualities that many parents will appreciate at a time when kids seem glued to their devices, video games, and social media. The social impact alone from burning energy and eliminating boredom is worth investing in, and leads to increased involvement with conservation efforts and community outreach.

I would have loved to be involved in such a program as a kid, but regardless, I grew up in a time when you couldn't pay me to stay indoors, much less sit in front of a screen of any kind. However, times have changed and the devices that connect us have forever altered the way we learn and interact with the world. And while it is true that America's youth have arguably learned a whole new set of skills, those lessons typically require things such as a working power grid, electronic devices, and an internet connection. Let's face it, to many kids, the idea of putting food on the table doesn't reach much further than the DoorDash app.

4-H is an opportunity to break that mold, teaching kids and young adults to appreciate the outdoors and learn valuable life skills that may come in handy more than an Xbox cheat code. It is during these formative years that they develop rapidly, both physically and mentally, as their personality, beliefs, and habits take shape. If idle hands are the devil's workshop, then what of the hands of a young man or woman whose time is spent learning, teaching others, and contributing to their community? This applies to adults as well, as there is a need for more of us to do our part. If you have outdoor skills, shooting experience, and the desire to create a better tomorrow by serving as a role model today, then you may be interested in volunteering with your local 4-H Club. In fact, I might just call mine now. For more information visit 4-H.org. FN

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CARRYING CONCEALED

By James Tarr | Field Editor

THE CONFUSING CARRY AMMO MENU

You've never had more choices in quality carry guns...or in quality defensive ammunition meant for those carry guns. The embarrassment of riches can actually be a bit confusing. Tarr tries to simplify it. (James Tarr)

While there will always be those people who load their carry gun up with FMJ (full metal jacket) ammunition, because they don't want to spend the money on hollowpoints, or because they truly doubt whether they'll ever need to use their gun but if they do cheap ball ammo "will do the job just fine," the people who truly know—know that pistols are poor fight-stoppers to begin with, and hollowpoints seriously improve your odds—will pony up a few bucks to buy that box of JHPs (jacketed hollow points).

The question is…which hollowpoints to buy? You've never had more choices. We're not back in the 1980s, where the number of hollowpoint designs on the market could be counted on one hand—Winchester Silvertip, Federal Hydra-Shok, etc. Now there aren't six ammo makers, there are twenty-six, and every ammunition manufacturer doesn't just have one hollowpoint design, they have several, often tailored for specific uses.

The good news—pretty much all of them work as advertised, unlike back in the eighties. You have the FBI (mostly) to thank for that, and here's a very brief summary why—thanks to their disastrous showing in the legendary FBI Miami Shootout in 1986, which the Bureau blamed on poorly-performing pistol bullets, the FBI set out to create a definitive testing protocol for defensive pistol bullets. The resulting FBI Ammunition Testing Protocol was the result, and it is the standard still to this day, used by everyone. Thanks to it, and modern manufacturing techniques, not only do modern hollowpoints actually both expand and penetrate,

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This is just a tiny sampling of the hollowpoints currently on the market, just in 9mm. Good news—they all pretty much work as advertised. But some are better at certain things than others. (James Tarr)

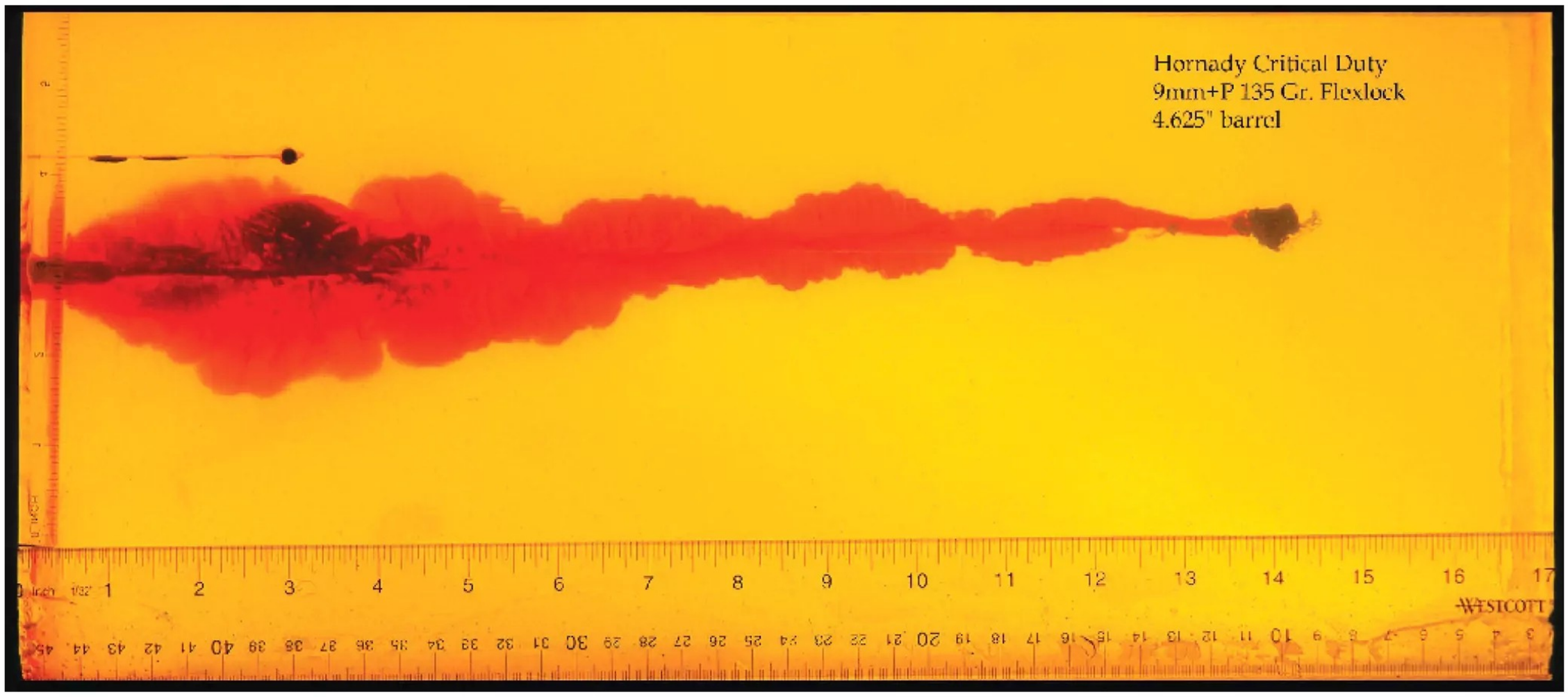
manufacturers offer specialty designs tailored to specific uses.

To help you navigate a crowded market, and summarize the offerings, I'll divide modern carry ammo into three categories of my own choosing for the purposes of this column—bonded or "barrier blind" ammunition, JHPs meant for small/subcompact pistols, and "standard" hollowpoints, a catch-all for everything else.

What cops call bonded bullets the military likes to call "barrier-blind" bullets. Either way it means bullets specifically designed to perform (penetrate and expand) even after being shot through intermediate barriers (plywood, auto glass, sheet metal, etc.). Cops generally want this ammo because they shoot a lot of people in and around cars, which are bullet sponges. But…this is full— if not extra-power (+P) ammunition meant for duty-sized pistols, which means more recoil, and those tough bullets will cost you more money. You have to decide if something like that is what you need and/or want for your CCW piece.

Speer's 124-grain+P 9mm is the gold standard for bonded bullets, and as street-proven as 9mm loads get. However, there are a lot of other great options—Hornady's Critical Duty, Federal's HST, etc. I always carry full-sized guns, and I've spent years carrying both the above Gold Dot (issued by the NYPD) and Hornady's 135-grain +P 9mm Critical Duty load (issued by the FBI).

Outside of the traditional lead core/copper jacket bullet designs, there are some interesting, effective choices in barrier-blind bullets, possible because of modern manufacturing wizardry. Copper solid bullets like Barnes' TAC-XP (loaded by Barnes and a number of manufacturers such as Black Hills Ammunition) don't have a jacket to shed, and punch above their weight. Lehigh Defense has a lot of copper solid bullets with unique designs that aren't meant to expand in the traditional sense but rather



Bonded bullets, like this Hornady Critical Duty 135-grain 9mm+P tested in Black Hills Ammunition's ballistics testing lab in FBI spec ballistics gel, are meant to penetrate and expand even after being shot through barriers. But, is that what you need? (James Tarr)

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Speer's 124-grain 9mm+P Gold Dot is about the most street-proven bullet. It's also a bonded bullet, but it doesn't say that anywhere on the box. Bonded bullets cost a bit extra. You might need to do research to find what fits your wants/needs. (James Tarr)

Fiocchi's new CoverX line features ammunition specifically built to perform out of short-barreled CCW guns. This .380 ACP was fired out of S&W's new Bodyguard 2.0 by Tarr, and shows textbook expansion. (James Tarr)

There are so many ammunition offerings even people in the industry have a hard time keeping track, but due to modern manufacturing improvements they all work. FYI—Federal's Punch line are hollowpoints that work, but are a little less expensive. (James Tarr)

fragment in pre-cut pieces, or have flutes meant to shove body tissue away after impact, producing hydraulic shock that way. Lehigh sells their own ammo, but several companies load ammo with both these types of Lehigh bullets, and the most-well known I think is the Honey Badger line from Black Hills Ammunition.

Most citizens' carry guns are small, which means they're light and have short barrels, reducing the velocity of your carry ammunition. Many companies are making soft-recoiling and/or easy-expanding ammunition specifically meant/built for short-barreled CCW guns. This ammo generally doesn't do so well shooting through barriers, but most citizens' CCW situations have you arms' length away from a bad guy trying to do you harm, and barrier penetration isn't an issue.

Federal has their Hydra-Shok Low Recoil in .380 ACP and .38 Special. Hornady has their Critical Defense line of ammo, loaded with JHPs designed to expand at the velocities you'd get out of normal carry guns. The bullets usually expand fully while penetrating gel blocks 10–12 inches. Their Critical Defense Lite ammo is loaded with even lighter bullets that still expand while providing less recoil. Personally, I carry Hornady's Critical Defense Lite ammo in my S&W Airweight .38 Special, just because it lets me run that very light gun faster and more accurately.

Fiocchi just introduced their CovertX line of ammo which features very interesting bullets where not only is the jacket skived, but so is the lead inside the hollowpoint cavity, ensuring expansion even out of the short barrels of micro-compact. Out of S&W's new Bodyguard 2.0 (my new favorite .380), it had gentle recoil while providing full textbook expansion.

…and then there's everything else, the JHPs that every ammunition manufacturer offers. Winchester's Silvertip has a long history. Hornady's XTP has a reputation for being one of the most accurate pistol bullets on the market. Remington's Golden Saber is a proven performer, and for years was the issued duty ammo of various federal law enforcement agencies, including the DEA. SIG Sauer, Nosler, Aguila, and several dozen other manufacturers large and small offer JHPs intended for defensive use. Some smaller ammo manufacturers, like Wilson Combat and Fenix Ammunition, pick and choosing the best bullets on the market to load in their ammo. All modern JHPs work to varying degrees, and all of them are a better choice for your carry gun than FMJ ammo. Friends don't let friends carry FMJ.

Modern CCW guns hold more rounds and are easier to shoot than ever before, which is good—because as good as modern defensive pistol ammo is, you still are more than likely to need multiple hits to stop an attacker. But the better your ammo—and ammo has never been better—the quicker you can accomplish that. **FN**

SOURCES

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Federal:
FederalPremium.com

Fenix Ammunition:
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Speer:
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Wilson Combat:
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By David M. Fortier | Executive Editor

WHEN A .45 IS NOT ENOUGH: THE .50 GI

If You Love Big-Bores You Will Want to Check Out the .50 GI From Guncrafters Industry!

.45 ACP not enough? Consider a .50 GI from Guncrafter Industries! L to R: .50 GI, .45 ACP, .40 S&W and 9mm. (David M. Fortier)

"I carry a 1911 pistol in .45 ACP because no one makes a .50!" was a phrase frequently heard in the not-too-distant past. Many shooters and collectors simply enjoy large bore revolvers and auto-loading pistols. Cartridges like the .455 Webley, .45 Colt, .45 ACP, .44-40 Winchester and .44 Special all have a following partly due to the large diameter and heavy bullets they fire. Please note, none of these are magnums and I am not touching on magnum handgun cartridges here, just traditional standard pressure cartridges. These are all cartridges which accomplished what they needed to do by driving a heavy, large diameter slug at moderate velocity. However, there are always those who desire something even bigger. In our case, there actually IS a bigger handgun cartridge readily available, the .50 GI.

Perhaps you've never heard of it, but the .50 GI is not a new cartridge. It was actually introduced back in 2004 at the annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas. It was developed by Alex Zimmerman of Guncrafters Industries both to showcase his impressive gunsmithing skills, and to offer a custom .50-caliber 1911 pistol to American shooters and collectors. While originally offered only in an expensive custom 1911 pistol, Zimmerman eventually introduced a more reasonably priced .50 GI Glock conversion kit. So, while you probably have not heard of the .50 GI, this is a mature cartridge which has been available for over two decades, with factory ammunition, reloading components, dies and data readily available.

What about the cartridge itself, what does it bring to the table? Most noteworthy is the simple fact it's a .50-caliber handgun cartridge. So, size-wise it is quite a bit larger in diameter than the traditional .45 ACP and thus more impressive looking. Like the .45 ACP though, the .50 GI is a relatively low pressure cartridge which drives heavy projectiles at moderate velocity. Performance wise, a standard pressure load drives a heavy 300-grain .50 caliber bullet at approximately 700 fps generating 326 ft-lbs. of energy. If you would like a little bit more velocity, a slightly lighter 275-grain JHP runs at 875 fps and generates 467 ft-lbs. A +P load will drive a 300-grain slug at 875 fps generating 509 ft-lbs. of energy. A 185-grain solid copper hollow point is offered, and this has an advertised muzzle velocity of 1,200 fps generating 591 ft-lbs. of energy. It's quite obvious looking at these figures that the .50 GI is not intended to compete with magnum revolver rounds. Rather than speed, the .50 GI relies on heavy

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The .50 GI cartridge was initially introduced along with Guncrafter Industries' Model 1 M1911 pistol but is now also available in a Glock conversion from them. (David M. Fortier)

large diameter projectiles to make things happen.

The .50 GI cartridge itself is a short, fat stubby thing. To allow it to fit into a 1911 platform the overall length is 1.221 inches. In order to allow it to fit, a standard breach face case head is rebated down to .45 ACP dimensions (0.480-inch rim diameter). Case length is 0.899-inch, and base diameter and neck diameter are 0.526-inch. It accepts a 0.500-inch projectile. If you section a case, you'll note the web is fairly thick to provide plenty of strength at the moderate working pressures. Speaking with Alex Zimmerman, I was told projectiles in the 250- to 325-grain region typically work best.

A neat .50-caliber handgun cartridge, loaded ammunition, dies and reloading components are all available from Guncrafter Industries. Currently, ammunition is offered in weights from 185 to 300 grains. Loads consist of a 185-grain Solid Copper Hollow Point (SCHP), 230-grain SCHP, 255-grain Lead Semi-Wadcutter, 275-grain Jacketed Flat Point (JFP), 300-grain Lead Flat Point and a 300-grain JFP. Brass cases are offered for reloading along with dies from Lee Precision. Guncrafter Industries also offers quite a variety of .50-caliber projectiles for reloading. These range in weight from 185 to 300 grains.

The handgun originally designed for the .50 GI is Guncrafter Industries' Model 1. Although a standard looking 1911 in profile, it hides the fact that a complete redesign was necessary to work with the fat .50 caliber cartridge. In the hand it looks, feels, and operates exactly like a standard 1911. However, slight internal dimensional changes were required to make it work properly and safely with the larger cartridge. Despite the changes though, the outside dimensions and overall weight is the same as for a standard 1911.

The Model 1 is built using special custom frames and slides manufactured to Guncrafter Industries' strict specifications. A 416R stainless steel 0.75-inch bull barrel with eight groove rifling and a 1-18 inch twist is fitted to a forged slide machined from 4340 steel. The large diameter barrel eliminates the need for a conventional barrel bushing. The slide is hand fit to a forged frame machined from 4140 steel. This is fitted with a beavertail grip safety with a raised pad, extended thumb safety, and a skeletonized lightweight hammer. The front strap features 20 lpi "carry checkering" and the pistol's flat mainspring housing sports a nicely recessed lanyard loop

Guncrafter Industries' .50 GI Model 1 is a high-end hand fit custom M1911 pistol redesigned for the .50 GI cartridge, but very expensive. (David M. Fortier)

A comparison between a sectioned .45 ACP case (Left) and a .50 GI case shows the thick casehead of the GI design. (David M. Fortier)

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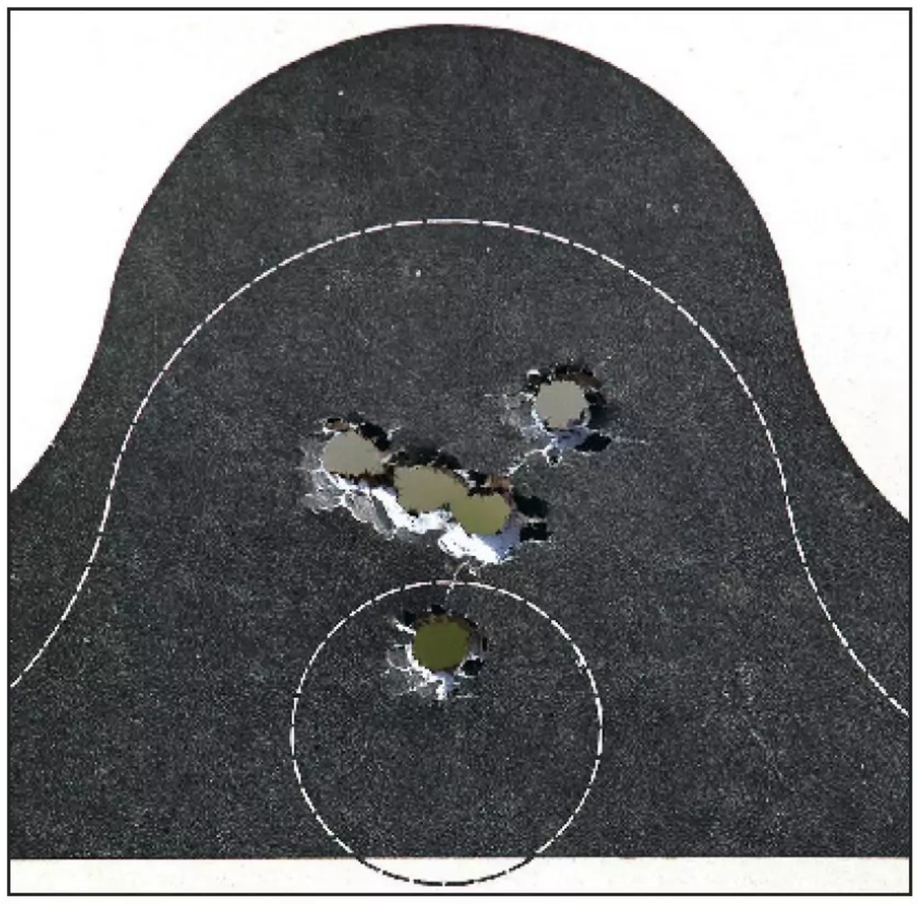
Cartridge cases, projectiles, dies and loading data are all readily available from Guncrafter Industries for the .50 GI. (David M. Fortier)



Practical accuracy of the .50 GI is very good and it's a fun pistol to shoot with recoil slightly snappier than a .45 ACP. (David M. Fortier)

on its bottom. Feed is from seven-round stainless steel magazines. Make no mistake, this is a hand built custom pistol, and priced accordingly at a whopping $5,890.

If that is a bit rich for your blood, don't lose hope as Guncrafter Industries also offers a drop-in conversion for Gen 1 through 4 Glock 20/21/40/41 pistol frames. These are available with a number of options, come with a nine-round magazine and drop right onto your pistol frame. Price starts at $845. If you prefer, Guncrafter Industries also offers a complete .50 GI Glock handgun with prices starting at $1,245. I'm sure many will find a Glock chambered in .50 GI appealing at this price.

While I have not tested one of Guncrafter Industries' Glock conversions, I have shot their Model 1 1911 on a few occasions. The first time was during an editorial roundtable at PASA Park shortly after the .50 GI was introduced way back in 2004. My initial impressions were very positive. Since then, I've had a chance to test Model 1 .50 GI M1911s on a couple more occasions and found them both handsome works of metallic art and fun shooters.

What is it like shooting a .50 GI? Recoil off sandbags is akin to a .45 ACP, but it will get a bit snappier with heavier/faster loads. I ran a variety of drills shooting from 3 to 50 yards. With standard pressure loads the pistol is very controllable and easy to hit with. Shooting at Pepper Poppers from about 15 yards, I found I could hit a target, and then put two more rounds on it as it fell. Accuracy averaged between 1.5 and 2.5 inches depending upon the load at 25 yards. I used a factory 275-grain JHP and 300-grain JFP during testing along with three handloads provided by Guncrafter Industries. The handloads were topped with a 300-grain IMI JHP, 300-grain Speer Gold Dot JHP and a 300-grain Speer TMJ.

All in all I liked the .50 GI quite a bit and it reminds me of those old 19th Century British big-bore revolver rounds that drove large diameter lead slugs at moderate velocities. While the Model 1 M1911 is frightening expensive, Guncrafter Industries' Glock conversion is within reach of most. A distinctive piece featuring a .50 caliber punch, it's a big-bore to be aware of. For more information visit Guncrafter Industries.com or call them at (224) 321-5044. FN

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Factory Load	**Bullet Weight (gr.)**	**Muzzle Velocity (fps)**	**Muzzle Energy (ft-lbs.)**	**Average Group (in.)**
Guncrafter Industries JHP	275	865	457	2.5
Guncrafter Industries JFP	300	713	339	2
HANDLOADS				
IMI JHP	300	745	370	1.5
Speer Gold Dot	300	733	358	1.7
Speer TMJ	300	847	478	1.9

Groups are an average of four 5 shot groups fired off sandbags at 25 yards using a five-inch Guncrafter Industries' Model 1 M1911 pistol. Velocity readings were measured 15 feet from the muzzle with an Oehler 35P chronograph at an ambient temperature of 58 degrees F 100 feet above Sea Level.

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SDSARMS

By Patrick Sweeney | Suppressors

The Banish 45, running just fine on the SDS Arms Raider Plus. It ran so well we used up all the ammo on hand just having fun. (Patrick Sweeney)

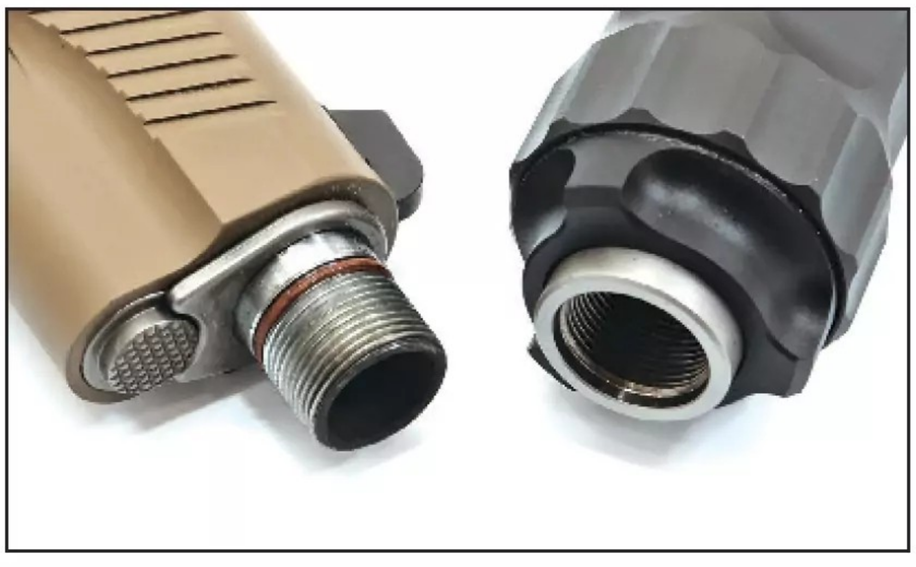
THE BANISH 45

Get More for Less!

We are now in a 9mm world. The .40 is a part of history, and a lot of new shooters just don't feel the need for the big old cartridge the .45ACP. (They are wrong on a lot of counts, but that's a different subject, and article.) So, the big volume of suppressor sales for pistols is in 9mm. Well, what sales don't go to a .22LR suppressor, that is.

What if you could have it all? Tame the big but not noisy .45, and still be able to cover everything including the 9mm on down to the rimfires as well? To do that you need to look at the Banish .45.

The Banish .45 is a modular suppressor, in that it comes as two pieces. The two pieces are assembled as a single suppressor, and that brings it up to its full length and weight, of eight and a half inches and eleven ounces. At that length, it is very quiet indeed. Now, the length and weight would tell the clever suppressor user or buyer that there's something going on there. Yes there is. The Banish 45 is made with a titanium tube (two tubes, actually) and it is filled with aluminum baffles. The tube is titanium to keep the weight down, and also to provide a rigid assembly without adding weight or bulk. Yes, Silencer Central could have made it out of aluminum, which would have probably brought the price down (not that the Banish 45 is at all



Your .45 needs an extended, threaded barrel to mount a suppressor. (Patrick Sweeney)

THE HP15

HP15 RIFLE

5.56

The HP15 is Hi-Point Firearms entry into the AR-15 market. Designed for shooters looking to step into the AR world with a mil-spec rifle that elevates the basic AR platform. Chambered in 5.56

HP15 PISTOL

5.56/.300BLK

The 10.5" HP15 Pistol is Hi-Point Firearms AR Pistol entry. Designed to give shooters a compact AR platform that is handy and versatile with the inclusion of a Blade Tech adjustable brace. Chambered in 5.56 or .300Blk

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Here you see the two halves, their baffles, and the front and rear caps. (Patrick Sweeney)

The pistol suppressor needs the booster so that the extra weight of the suppressor doesn't "stall" the pistol cycling. (Patrick Sweeney)

The booster assembly is the rear cap, spring and piston. (Patrick Sweeney)

If you want to use a shorter suppressor, unscrew the front half, take the front cap and screw it into the lower half, and you're good to go. (Patrick Sweeney)

expensive) but the materials cost would have meant making the tube with a thicker wall. Instead of its inch and three-eighths outer diameter, it would probably have ended up at an inch and a half, maybe even more. And the .45, or the 9mm, doesn't call for anything more robust in baffles than aluminum. Anyone who makes a pistol suppressor with Inconel or stainless steel, or titanium baffles is gilding the lily, and ramping up the cost.

The size of the Banish 45 is needed to manage the large volume of gas the .45 produces, and the benefit is that it makes the 9mm quieter as a result. With its light weight, you can, with the proper rear cap, put it on a rimfire rifle or pistol. If the length is too much fully assembled, then unscrew the forward part, remove the front cap, and install the front cap on the rear portion. Viola, you now have a shorter suppressor, and given the immense volume (compared to regular rimfire suppressors) it will be quiet.

To maximize the utility of your Banish 45 you'll need an array of rear caps. For use on a .45 pistol you'll need the booster, the Nielsen device, to keep the extra weight and leverage of the Banish 45 from stalling your pistol. Your .45 barrel will need a muzzle threaded at .578x28. To use it on a 9mm pistol, you'll want to disassemble the Banish 45 piston, and then use a 1/2x28 piston. To use it on a 9mm PCC, or a rimfire, you then will need to remove the piston assembly and replace it with a solid direct-thread rear cap.

It may seem like a tired adage, but it is true that to save money you have to spend money. You could buy three suppressors, one .45, one 9mm and one rimfire, to cover all your pistol-caliber shooting needs. (You'd still need two rear cap assemblies for the 9mm suppressor, by the way, for the PCC.) That could easily entail spending $2,500 or more on suppressors and mounts, not to forget the $600 in transfer taxes as well. At $949 for the Banish 45, and its included .45 booster mount, you only need the direct-thread mount which works for both 9mm and rimfire, as well as the 9mm piston. Those extras cost about as much as one transfer tax on one of those other suppressors. With the Banish 45, you can be into a multi-caliber (pistol and rimfire) suppressor for all your firearms for

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The Banish 45 suppressor got paired with the SDS Arms Raider for several range sessions of fun. (Patrick Sweeney)

$1,200 or less. The $1,300+ difference buys a lot of ammo and range time.

Before we take the Banish 45 apart, why do this? Why make it in two pieces? Why not buy the short one, and then when you feel the need buy the extra and add it on? As it was explained to me, the regs allow you to make a suppressor less effective, but not more effective. Something along the lines of: making it less quiet is just making it less quiet, but making it more-quiet is making a new suppressor. (It need not be logical or rational, it simply has to follow the regs.)

So, in the short form the Banish 45 uses eight of the twelve baffles, and the full-length one uses all twelve. To disassemble, simply unscrew the cap, front or rear. (Or even both.) The aluminum baffles are keyed and indexed, so once you have gotten them clean (hand scrubbing, ultrasonics, Otis cleaning kit, or whatever works) you can index them by snapping them back into a stack before installing them into the titanium tube. Oh, and you can't assemble the Banish 45 with just the shorter, front, section. That part can only be on or off of the longer half, not onto the base unit with the booster or rear cap.

In testing, I used a new arrival here, the SDS Arms Raider that has been updated with an extended and threaded barrel and machined for a red-dot optic. The original has the model name Raider, but the upgrade has the prosaic designation of B45RDG TH. Really, it should be the Raider Plus or something like that.

I fed it a diet of 230-grain hardball to run through the Banish 45, and the pair perked along just fine. It hit to the sights with or without the Banish 45, and it was so much fun to shoot that my test-fire crew and I used up all the .45 I had along just in plinking and giggling. Not having a rear cap on hand to test it on a 9mm pistol or PCC, or rimfire, I didn't, but I have no worries that it wouldn't have let me down on those firearms.

As someone who is at the borders of off-the-rack clothing and shoe sizes, I find the phrase "one size fits all" to be laughable. Usually it means "one size fits no-one in particular." No, the Banish 45 is not a one-size-fits-all suppressor, because you should not use it on a centerfire rifle. Well, a 5.7x28 firearm is within its limits, but anything just a bit larger I'd be leery of, and past, say, the .22 Hornet, I'd call it a hard no. If you want a truly one size fits all suppressor, you're going to have to go a lot heavier or a lot more expensive, and what's the point. No, Silencer Central knows what works, and they hit the sweet spot on this one. The Banish 45 will handle all the pistol and rimfire shooting needs you have and do it in style and with versatility. What are you waiting for? FN

The baffles are indexed, and they snap together when assembled. (Patrick Sweeney)

BANISH 45 SUPPRESSOR	
OAL:	6.7 in. or 8.6 in.
Net Added Length:	6.2 in. or 8.1in.
Diameter:	1.375 in.
Material:	Aluminum, titanium
Weight:	9.6 oz. or 11 oz.
Finish:	Cerakote, black or FDE
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Full-Auto Rated:	Yes
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By Will Dabbs, MD

The German MP40 was emblematic of the Nazi regime during World War II. (Will Dabbs, MD)

THE GERMAN MP40

Classic, Iconic, Collectible, and Cool

The MP40 could be found anyplace the Germans were fighting during WWII. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The MP40 is a fixture in any movie involving Nazis. It was inextricably associated with the WWII German war machine. The gun's innate notoriety makes it a perennially popular piece among collectors. Filmmakers typically artificially represent submachine guns. Bolt-action rifles were much more common. Still, around 1.1 million MP40's were produced between 1940 and 1944.

According to a combat memoire I read about a Wehrmacht infantryman on the Eastern Front, MP40's were often issued meritoriously to enlisted soldiers who had distinguished themselves in combat. Otherwise, they equipped officers, senior NCOs, paratroopers, and armored crewmen for whom a full-sized rifle might be impractical. German bombers operating over England often carried a single MP40 as a personal defense weapon in the event of a forced landing.

A great many MP40's came home in duffle bags and footlockers after the war. My wife's grandfather served from 1940 through 1945. When he came back from fighting in Italy in 1945, he brought with him a Beretta 418, a Walther P38 pistol, and an MP40 submachine gun. He used a jeep battery and a silver dollar to silverplate the P38 on the boat ride home. This he sold to a hapless dentist for $400, a king's ransom for the time. The poor guy probably thought a silver-plated P38 was carried by Himmler himself.

The little Beretta made it back safely. However, some scumbag stole the MP40 from underneath his bunk, and he never saw it again. That always struck me as one of life's great injustices.

Sources

Quite a few examples did make it home intact. Some of these made it into the national firearms registry

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during the brief 1968 amnesty. A great many more were imported as lightly-demilled examples. Importers also brought in intact guns for sale to law enforcement agencies.

Prior to 1986, we could still legally manufacture automatic weapons from scratch. Back in the early 1980's, surplus stocks of German weapons were liquidated in Europe and imported with cut receivers at reasonable prices. Back then, you could land a demilled MP40 parts kit for a couple hundred bucks in the pages of *Shotgun News*, the predecessor to the illustrious publication you currently appear to be clutching. A demilled MP44 would set you back $275 or so, while an MG34 was about $350. Money doesn't go quite so far today, but that was still pretty darn cheap.

Enterprising Class II manufacturers then crafted new receivers and used them to build up MP40's for sale to the public. The accursed 1986 machinegun ban put the kibosh on all of that, but not before a fair number of guns made it into the registry. These weapons fractionate into original Curio and Relic examples as well as rebuilt tube guns. A gun's particular provenance drives its intrinsic worth.

My wife's grandfather almost got a German MP40 submachine gun home after serving in WWII. However, the gun was stolen on the ride back across the Atlantic. (Will Dabbs, MD)

What Is a C&R Machinegun?

"Curio and Relic" (C&R) guns are technically any firearms more than fifty years old and approved by ATF as such. All those onerous National Firearms Act rules still apply to transfer and ownership of MGs. However, C&R guns can be transferred via a C&R FFL (a federal firearms license for collectors). If you don't already have a C&R FFL, you need one.

The application is available on the BATF website. It only costs $30 for three years. You have to provide a set of fingerprints, but that's not a big deal in the Information Age. Once activated, a C&R FFL lets you ship C&R-designated firearms straight to your door without going through a conventional FFL. That also applies to machineguns.

Some states have their own weird rules regarding C&R guns. These rules change from time to time. California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island ban the possession of automatic weapons of any age outright.

Thanks to a particularly inane aspect of NFA firearms law, when an individual buys a machinegun from an individual in another state, that transfer will require the payment of two $200 transfer taxes. The first tax-paid transfer will move the gun to a Class III dealer in your own state. The second will move the gun to you. That's $400 no matter how you slice it. You cannot get around that. However, a C&R machinegun will transfer directly from an individual in another state to your C&R FFL with a single tax-paid transfer. Do that once and you've paid for your C&R FFL for twenty years.

C&R MP40's

Original uncut WWII guns command a premium. As with all such old military weapons, the devil is in the details. The very earliest guns featured a slab-sided magazine well as well as a hook-style rigid charging handle. Once the guns were in service it was determined that they would fire spontaneously if dropped at certain angles. As a result, German engineers redesigned the charging handle and cut a corresponding groove in the receiver. The new bolt system allowed the operator to push the charging handle inwards and lock the bolt closed. Early guns had the grooves cut in theater and were refitted with

The MP40 is a relatively simple design. Thousands of these guns were imported as demilled parts kits. (Will Dabbs, MD)

kurz *adj.* Deutsch. **1a.** A comparatively short length.
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Historically speaking, C&R machineguns are those original weapons registered intact with its original receiver. (Will Dabbs, MD)

Vet-bring back guns typically command a premium because they have a story. U.S. WWII veterans also returned with Nazi flags as war trophies as well. (Will Dabbs, MD)

◄ This is an early Steyr MP40 made during the first few months of production. Later versions sported a ridged magazine well. (Will Dabbs, MD)

► The original hooked bolt handles are a bit unusual. This gun has also been cut for the later version that served as a carry safety. (Will Dabbs, MD)

◄ This is the later retractable charging handle. Snapping this appendage inwards locks the bolt in the closed position. (Will Dabbs, MD)

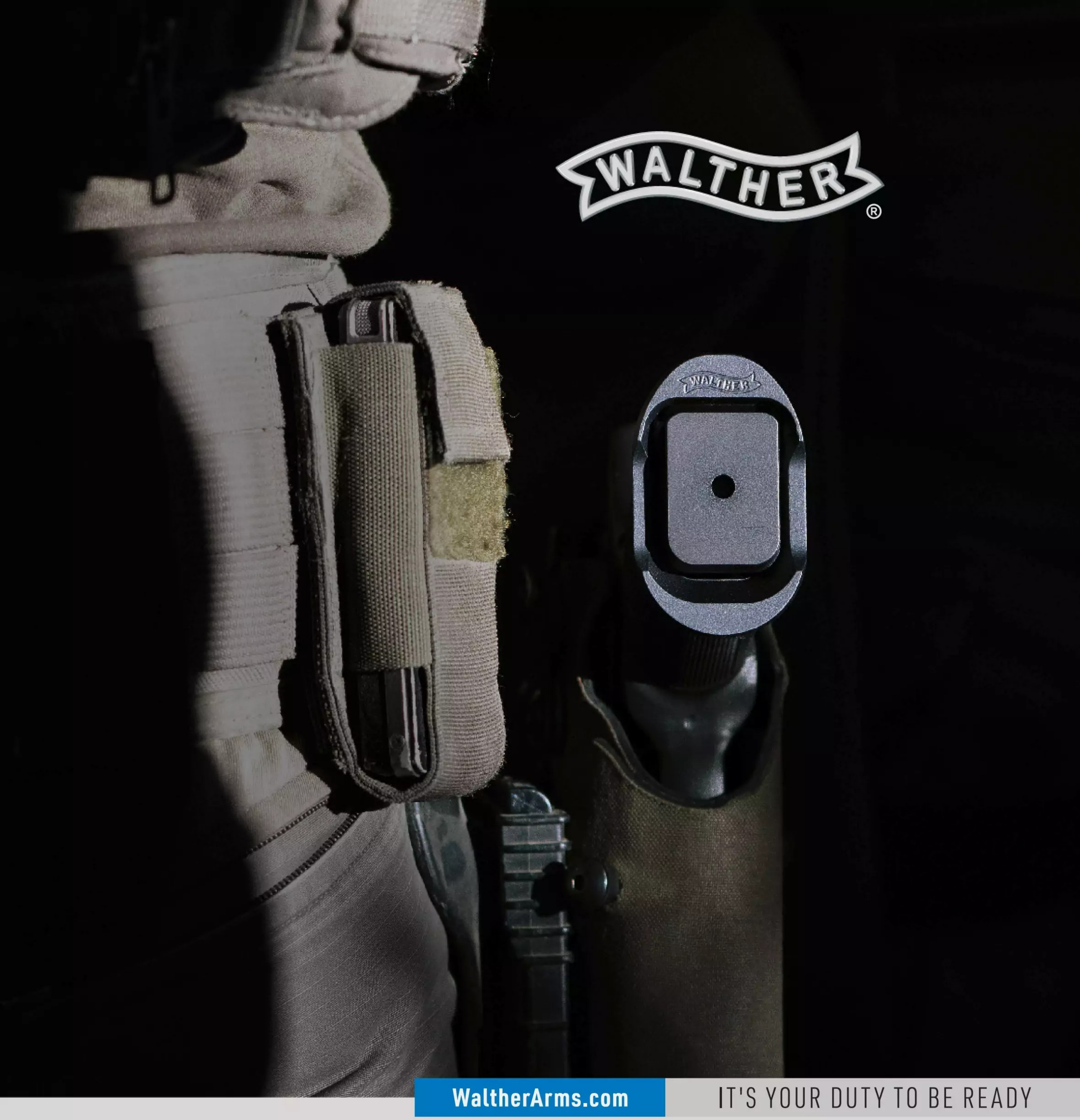
► The Germans stamped the production date on the rear part of the fire control unit on their MP40 SMGs. (Will Dabbs, MD)

the improved bolt handle. Oftentimes, the bolts are not accurately serialized with the receivers as a result. Original unmolested hooked examples, though incrementally more dangerous in combat, command a slight premium.

Like all WWII-vintage German weapons, the build quality suffered somewhat as the war progressed. Early production weapons are usually a bit nicer looking than the later sort. The date of manufacture is always stamped into the top rear hood of the fire control unit. This piece is included with the demilled parts kit and is not part of the registered receiver.

Tube Guns

Most MP40's available on the civilian market were made from demilled kits assembled on new-manufacture receivers. If the receiver is basically a tube, like the MP40 or STEN submachine guns, they are referred to as "tube guns" and these are not original.



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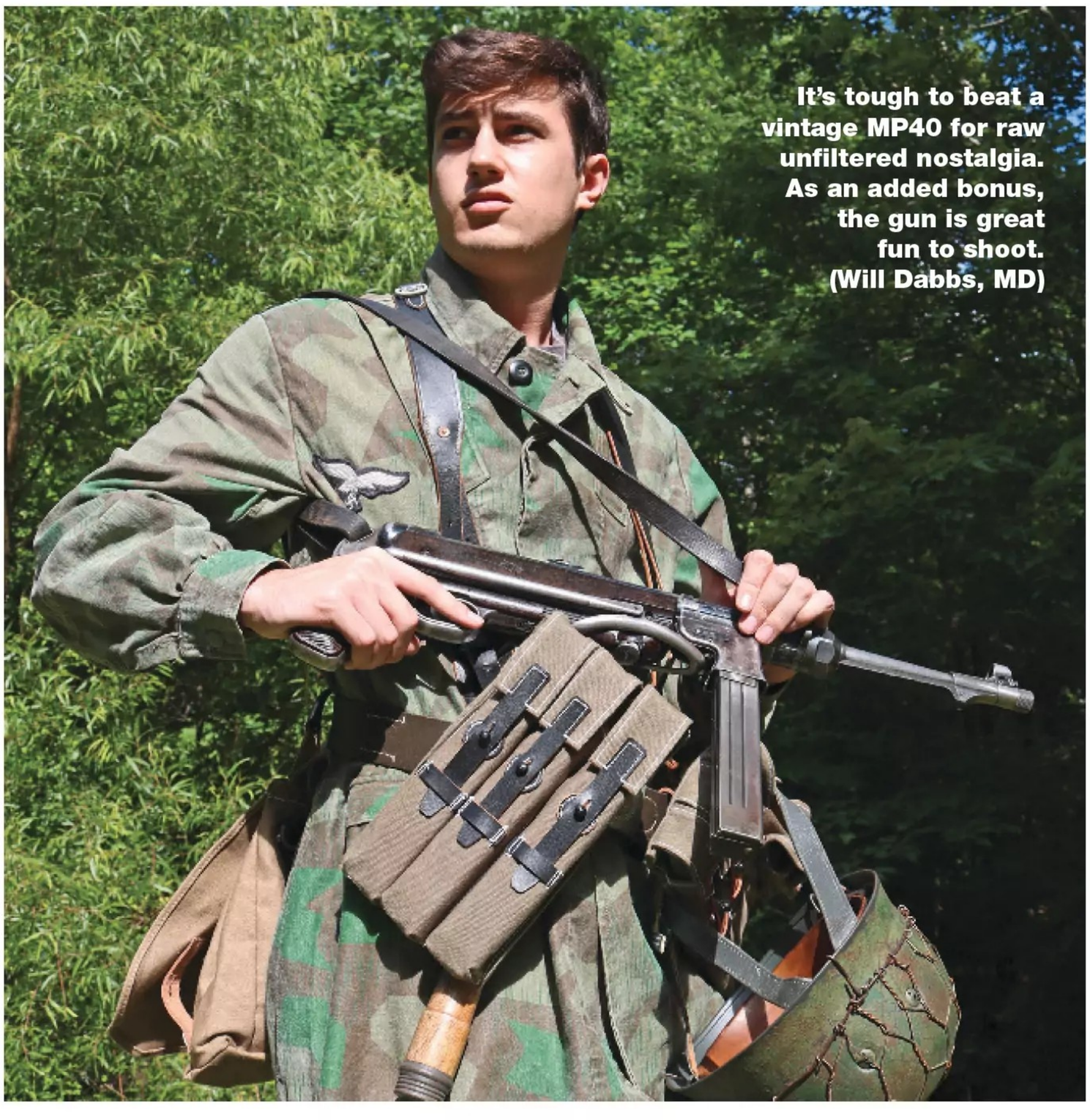
Rebuilt tube guns will always have the information from the manufacturer someplace on the receiver. In the case of the MP40, this is typically located on the bottom where it doesn't show unless disassembled. (Will Dabbs, MD)

Lots of manufacturers replicated the original receiver markings as part of the manufacturing process. (Will Dabbs, MD)



It's tough to beat a vintage MP40 for raw unfiltered nostalgia. As an added bonus, the gun is great fun to shoot. (Will Dabbs, MD)

Charles Erb, AWC, and Wilson made scads of them as did any number of other smaller Type 07/Class 2-licensed shops. An individual could also build these guns up at home via a BATF Form 1 in the heady days before the 1986 ban.

The more experienced manufacturers often replicated waffenamts and factory markings on these tubes, making it difficult at a glance to determine if the tubes are original. The manufacturers were required to place their identifying information on the receivers, but this was invariably done underneath so it didn't show unless the gun was disassembled. The quickest way to tell if an MP40 is a tube gun is to look at the registration paperwork. Originals will typically say, "Germany" or something similar for the original manufacturer. If the gun is built around a new-production tube, the Form 4 will list the American manufacturer of the tube.

This MP40 is all original and available (at time of publishing) from Rubin Mendiola at DealerNFA, Inc. for $29,995. For information, visit DealerNFA.com or call (305) 271-3436. (DealerNFA, Inc.)

The MP40 is a fun gun on the range. It also just drips nostalgia. All machineguns are expensive. MP40's span a spectrum based upon relative collectability. However, any MP40, when combined with a fedora and a bullwhip, will make you feel like Indiana Jones.

According to MachinegunPriceGuide.com, tube guns were selling for about $6,000 in 2003 and run around $21,000 today. Original C&R guns spanned from $12k to around $30k during the same time frame. As with all transferable machineguns, they never get any cheaper. FN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
GERMAN MP40 SUBMACHINE GUN

Action:	Blowback-operated, open-bolt, full-auto only
Caliber:	9mm Para
Barrel:	9.9 in.
Overall Length:	24.8 in. folded / 32.8 in. ext.
Weight:	8.75 lbs.
Finish:	Blued
Sights:	Flip Rear Notch / Front Hooded Post
Value:	$21,000+ (tube/rebuilt), $30,000+ (C&R/original)

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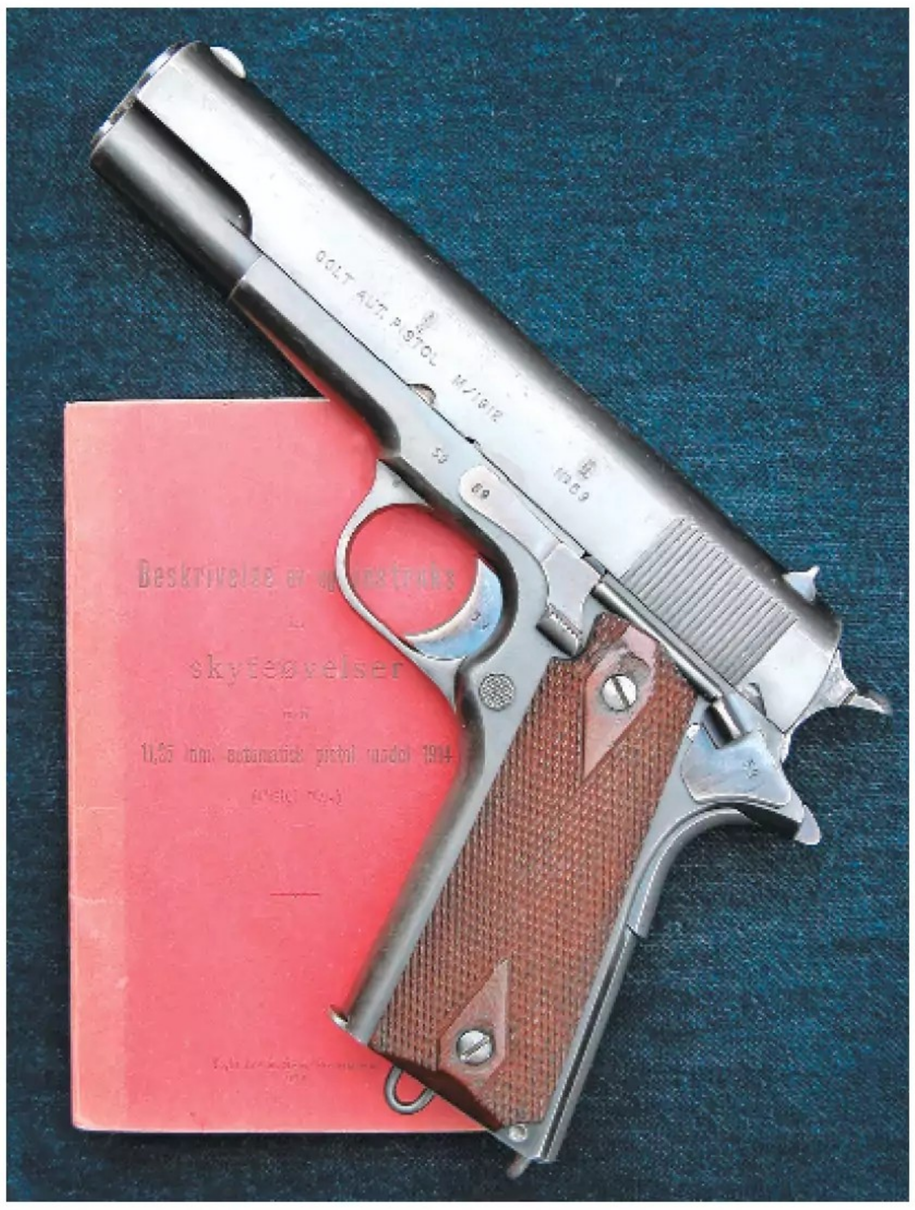
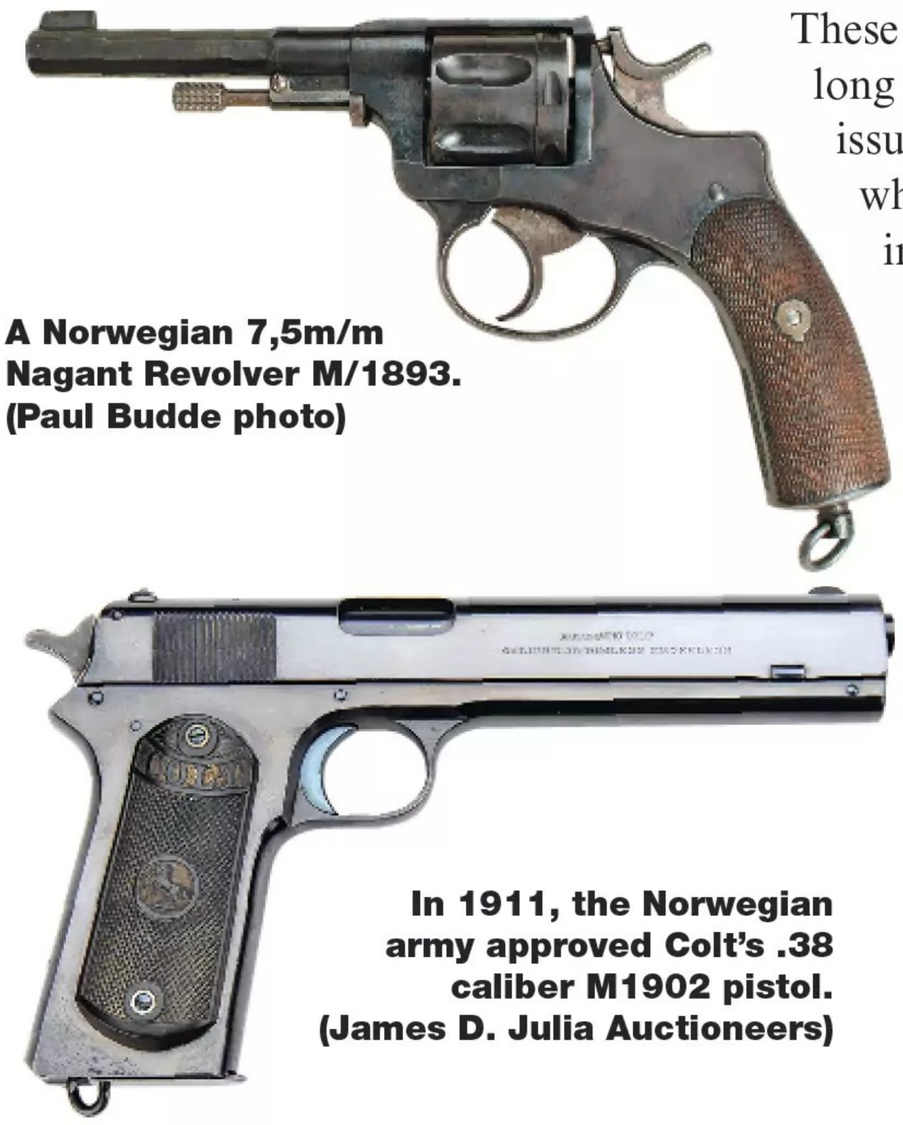
In 1859, the Norwegian navy ordered five hundred French-made Lefaucheux pinfire revolvers and five years later, purchased 1,500 similar revolvers designated "revolverpistol M/1864." In 1882, they purchased 9.4mm Nagant revolvers from the Belgian firm of Fabrique d Armes Emile et Leon Nagant and the following year adopted it as the Nagant Revolver M/1883 and in 1885 an additional 150 revolvers were obtained.

In 1888, the Norwegian navy purchased a number of 7.5mm Swedish-pattern revolvers from Nagant. Three years later, the army obtained some, but it took two years of trials before it was adopted as the 7,5m/m Nagant Revolver M/1893. A total of 12,400 revolvers were purchased from the Belgian factory while an additional 465 units were obtained from Husqvarna.



A Norwegian M/1912 pistol updated to M/1914 specs. (Karl Egil Hanevik)



A Norwegian 7,5m/m Nagant Revolver M/1893. (Paul Budde photo)

In 1911, the Norwegian army approved Colt's .38 caliber M1902 pistol. (James D. Julia Auctioneers)

These Nagants proved long serving and were still being issued to reserve units and police when Norway became involved in WWII.

In 1904, the army began trials to find a semiautomatic service pistol to replace the Nagants and a number of pistols were tested including: the C93 Borchardt, C96 Mauser, Luger M1900, FN Mle. 1900 and M1903 Browning, and the .38 caliber Colt Model 1902.

In 1909, it was determined that 9mm or .38 was the best caliber for military sidearms and new trials were focused on 9mm and .38 caliber pistols. The Colt 1902 Military Model was the clear winner, and troop trials began in 1911.

Norway began negotiations with Colt to obtain a license to manufacture the Colt M1902 at Kongsberg. However, the situation was further complicated because John Moses Browning had licensed his designs outside of the United States to Fabrique Nationale.

The matter was referred to an international patent arbitrator. Colt hired Colonel Ole Herman Johannes Krag (of Krag rifle fame) to represent them. Ultimately, the arbitrator decided that Fabrique Nationale held the rights to the Browning Design. Norway negotiated with Fabrique Nationale and

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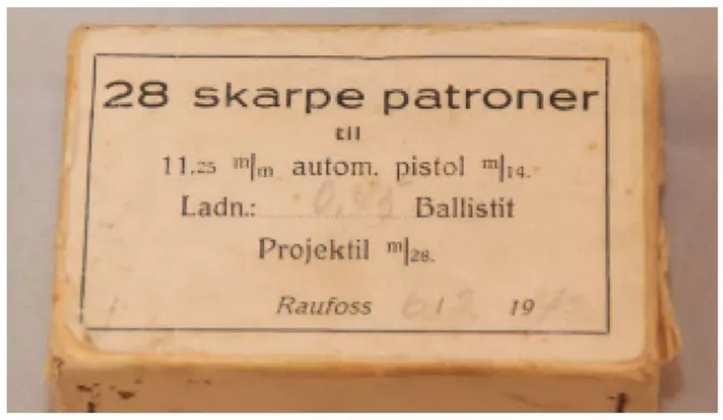
This 11,25m/m Automatisk Pistol M/1914 was made in 1928. (Becky Scarlata)

Except for the extended slide release lever the 11,25m/m Automatisk Pistol M/1914 was a copy of the Colt M1911. (Becky Scarlata)



A packet of Skarpe Partron til 11.25m/m M/14 cartridges made by Raufos Ammunisjonsfabrikker in 1942. (Courtesy of Karl Egil Haneik)

► As can be seen here just about every component of the pistol was marked with the last three digits of the serial number. (Becky Scarlata)

secured the rights to manufacture the 1902 Military Model pistol at a cost of 25,000 Norwegian Kroner.

Before production began, Colt submitted a sample of the new Government Model (1911) pistol that was even better received by the Norwegians. This, in addition to repeated complaints by various Norwegian inventors that their pistols had not been properly tested, resulted in so-called "final trials." The Colt faced off against pistols from Webley & Scott M1912, Steyr M.1911, Mauser M1912/14 and M1914, Schouboe M/1912, and various other Norwegian designs. The Colt was the only pistol that passed all tests without any breakages or stoppages.

On September 24, 1914, the Norwegian Minister of Defense officially adopted the Colt Government Model as the "Colt Automatisk 11,43 mm Pistol model 1912." Soon, the official designation was altered to "11,25 mm Automatisk Pistol M/1914," corresponding to the year of adoption.

Originally, Model 1911s were bought from Colt USA. Four hundred pistols were shipped to Norway for the Royal Norwegian Navy in 1915, 300 more pistols were shipped in 1917 for the Norwegian Army. The price was US $18.50 per pistol.

Production of the pistol began at Kongsberg Vaapenfabrikk in 1918, and the first pistols were assembled and tested in December of that year. The Kongsberg-Colt pistols were almost identical to the Colt Model of 1911, except for minor details such as the hammer checkering.

The Skarpe Patron til 11,25m/m Autom. Pistol M/14—the Norwegian designation for the .45 ACP—

The M/1914's Colt heritage is evident when it is disassembled. (Becky Scarlata)

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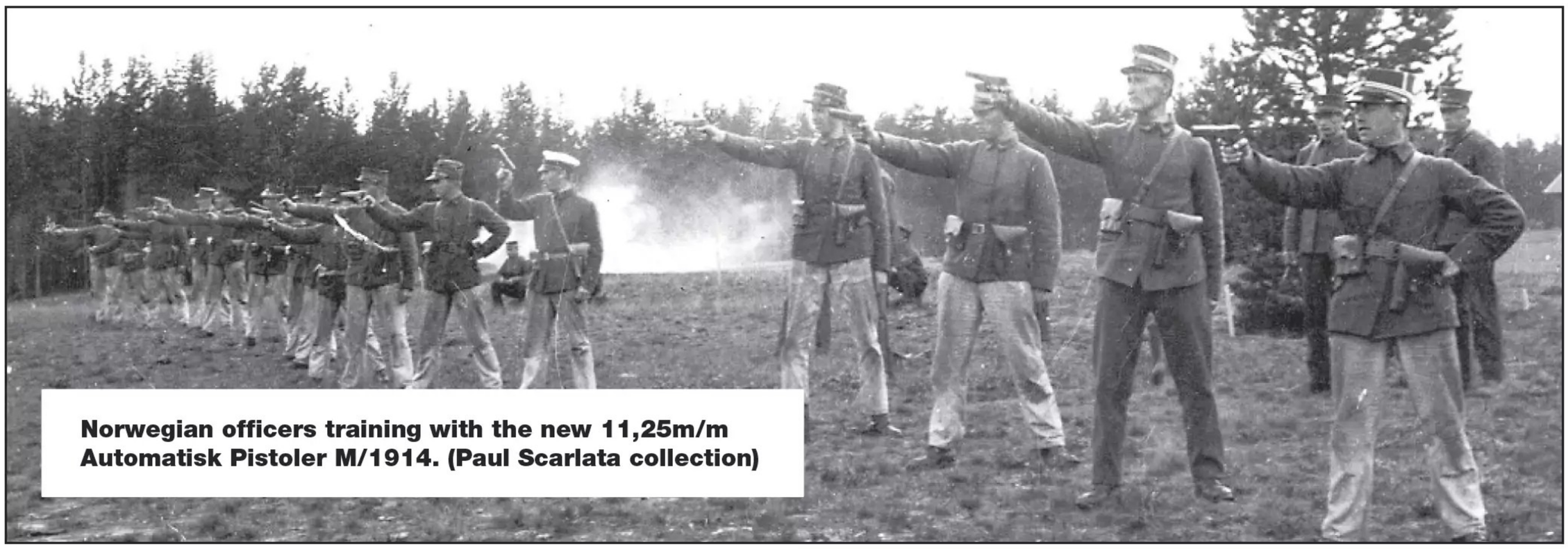

Norwegian officers training with the new 11,25m/m Automatisk Pistoler M/1914. (Paul Scarlata collection)

consisted of a straight walled, rimless case 0.89-of-an-inch long topped with a 230-grain round nosed, FMJ bullet with a rated muzzle velocity of 850 feet per second. Ammunition was produced by Raufos Patronfabrik og Krudtværk (marking "RP"). The name of the facility was changed to Raufos Ammunisjonsfabrikker (marking "RA") in 1924. After 1955, ammunition was purchased from various commercial manufacturers.

Certain design changes were made during the initial production with the most prominent being the slide stop lever, which was extended down and back so as to make it easier to manipulate with the shooting hand. The longer slide stop required a slight modification to the left grip panel. Apart from changes of finish and numbering of parts, these were the only significant changes to the pistol throughout its production life. Most of the early pistols were recalled to the factory and upgraded with the new slide stop and grips.

While M/1912 and early production M/1914 pistols featured a blue finish, with walnut or hardwood grip panels, later in production this was changed to a Parkerized finish which allowed there to be less surface finishing of metal parts thus reducing the time and cost of manufacture. All major and many minor components were stamped either with the pistol's entire serial number or the last three digits preceded by a period. By the late 1920s, approximately 20,000 M/1914s had been manufactured, more than enough for the small Norwegian army and navy. Only limited numbers were produced from 1929 to 1940.

Norway remained neutral in WWI and the M/1914 did not see combat service until 1940. On April 9, 1940, Nazi Germany began Operation Weserübung, the invasion of Denmark and Norway. While the Danes capitulated after less than a day, the Norwegian army, while small, and with their units scattered, put up a fierce resistance.

German naval and airborne forces quickly captured the main cities in the southern and western parts of the country. Britain and France rushed forces to the northern region of the country where they reinforced Norwegian forces around the city of Narvik. But the Wehrmacht's *blitzkrieg* tactics told out in the end forcing the French and British to withdraw their forces

The M/1914 was issued with a full flap leather holster. (Becky Scarlata)

A squad of Norwegian soldiers during the Battle of Narvik. Their officer is holding a Pistol M/1914 pistol. (Courtesy Karl Egil Hanevik)

Defenders of the Norwegian fortress of Hegra. Several of them are wearing holstered M/1914 pistols. (Paul Scarlata collection)

German occupation troops in Norway armed with captured M/1914 pistols. (Paul Scarlata collection)

1955. A trio of Norwegian soldiers on the border with the USSR. The soldiers on the left and middle are armed with American supplied M1 Garand rifles while the one on the right has a 11,25m/m Automatisk Pistol M/1914. (Paul Scarlata collection)

1970. A warmly dressed Norwegian soldier with a holstered M/1914 pistol. (Paul Scarlata collection)

while the remaining Norwegian troops surrendered on June 10, 1940.

The Germans took control of Kongsberg, and continued manufacture of the weapons for the occupation troops and the collaborationist forces of Vidkun Quisling (Norwegians who assisted the Germans). The M/1914 was taken into Wehrmacht service as the 11,25mm Pistole 657(n) and approximately 8,200 pistols were produced under German control. NOTE: only the final 920 pistols were stamped with the Waffenampt's acceptance marking *WaA84*.

According to my Norwegian friend, and collector and author Karl Egil Hanevik, during the war numbers of M/1914s, complete pistols and parts, were smuggled out of Kongsberg for use by the resistance. Known as "lunch-box-pistols" (in Norwegian "matpakke-colt," ie "food package-Colt"), they were assembled during the war.

There are huge variations in finish, fitting and markings, obviously because parts were "removed" (stolen and smuggled out) from the factory at various stages of production.[1]

Karl noted that there are more "matpakke-colts" in circulation than the illegal resistance assembly during the war should amount to. This is because there must also have been assembled from existing spare parts (mostly unnumbered) after the war.

After the war, Kongsberg assembled a limited number of M/1914s which were identical to those made during the war, but without the Waffenampt markings. A further 2,319 pistols were assembled from existing parts after the war until production was halted at serial number 32854 in 1948. Twenty additional pistols were assembled from foreign-produced parts in 1987 as collector's pieces for the US market. A US dealer supplied commercial frames, slides, and barrels, as well as other parts that were assembled at Kongsberg. Previous markings were removed, and Kongsberg markings and serial numbers were engraved on the parts before the assembled pistols were returned to the US.[2] In total, 32,854 M/1914s were produced by 1948.

NOTE: Some 1945 models produced after the end of World War II have been marked with fake Waffenamt marks. They are easily discovered, as serial numbers are higher than the last pistol made for the Germans (serial# 30534). Any pistol with year 1940/41/42 with WaA84 or any other Waffenamt markings are fakes and have been marked post-World War II.

The Norwegian armed forces continued to use M/1914s supplemented with numbers of ex-German pistols, mainly P08 Lugers, P38 Walthers and various 7,65mm pistol, which remained in service well into the 1980s when the Norwegians standardized on the Glock 17 pistol as the P80.

Firing the M/1914 Pistol

My good friend Tim Hawkins provided a Norwegian M/1914 pistol to evaluate for this report. It was in good condition with a worn, but clean bore. The left side of the slide is marked "11.25 m/m AUT. PISTOL M/1914" while the date of manufacture, "1928," was stamped on the right side of the slide.

Except for the extended slide release, it is a clone of the Colt M1911. The flat mainspring housing has a lanyard loop as does the magazine, it has a long trigger (there are no relief cutouts

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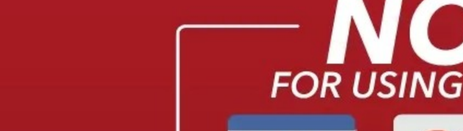

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Offhand test firing was performed from seven yards. (Becky Scarlata)

The M/1914 handled just...well, just like a Colt M1911. (Becky Scarlata)

on the frame behind the trigger), and it is fitted with a grip safety with a short tang. Tim also supplied an original holster and a letter of authentication from Kongsberg Vaapenfabrikk.

A sample target fired from a rest at 15 yards were in the two-inch range. (Becky Scarlata)

I test fired the M/1914 for accuracy from at MTM K-Zone rest at fifteen yards using Black Hills .45 ACP ammo loaded with 230-grain FMJ bullets. The small sights proved a bit of a trial, but once I had the measure of them, I was able to produce several impressive groups, the best of which had five holes measuring 1.75 inches.

I then set up a combat target at seven yards and proceeded to send another twenty-one rounds in its direction firing the pistol with both supported and one-handed grips. The 1911's excellent ergonomics came to the fore, and I put twenty out of twenty-one rounds in the 10 and nine rings. Not too bad for an *Gamle norske jente* (old Norwegian girl). My only complaint was the short grip safety tang caused me to suffer a bit of "hammer bite" on the web of my shooting hand.

Despite its age, I did not experience a malfunction of any kind during our testing. But after all, it is a 1911...so what did you expect?

—

I would like to thank the following for providing information, photos and other materials used to prepare this report. Tim Hawkins, Karl Egil Hanevik, John Miller, James D. Julia Auctioneers of Fairfield, Maine (JamesDJulia.com), and Black Hills Ammunition. FN

◀ Offhand shooting produced a nicely perforated combat target. (Becky Scarlata)

—

1 Hanevik, Karl Egil. Kongsberg-Colten. Rena: Hanevik Våpen. 2003. Pages 121 – 126.
2 www.lugerforums.com/threads/norwegian-1914-1925.47921/

SPECIFICATIONS
11,25M/M AUTOMATISK PISTOL M/1914

Caliber:	Skarpe Patron til 11,25m/m Autom. Pistol m/14
Overall Length:	8.25 in.
Barrel Length:	5 in.
Weight (Unloaded):	38 oz.
Magazine:	7 rds.
Sights:	Front: Blade Rear: Square notch
Grips:	Checkered wood

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SPRINGFIELD SAINT

James Tarr evaluates the latest version of Springfield Armory's Saint Victor Rifle. (Andy Grossman)

ARMORY'S VICTOR RIFLE —TAKE TWO

By James Tarr Cover and lead photo by Andy Grossman

Springfield Armory's Updated Saint Victor Rifle Line Is Even Better Than Before

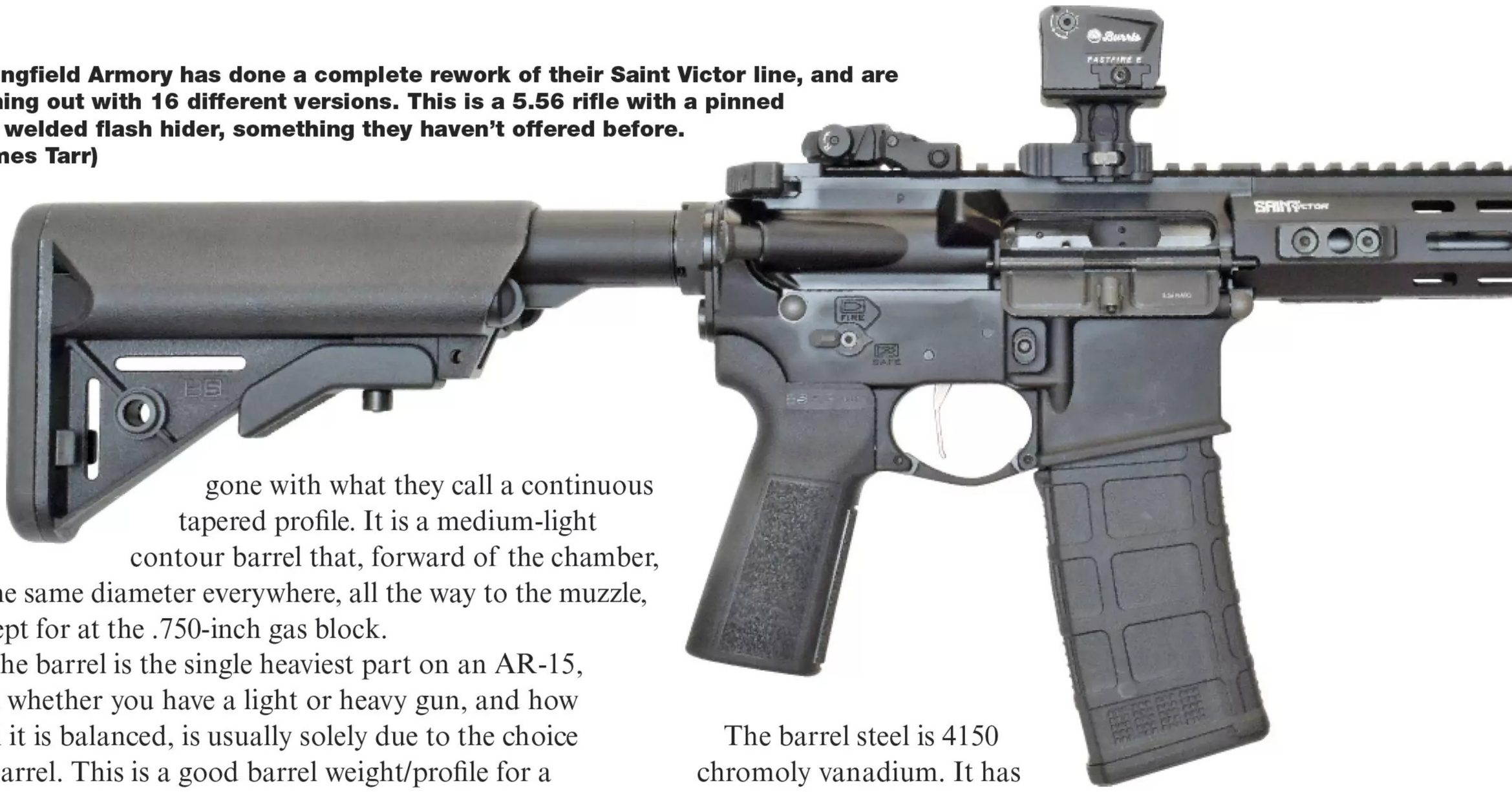
The Saint Victor is Springfield Armory's mid-grade line of AR-15s. With the Saint family, the entry-level model gives you a polymer handguard and fixed front sight, collapsible stock, and basic controls. The top-of-the-line Saint Edge models have all the bells and whistles you could want, including custom billet receivers, a fabulous match trigger pull, and custom-designed flip-up iron sights. The Victors sit squarely in the middle.

The Saint Victors were first introduced maybe six years ago, and between changes in consumer tastes and unexpected upsets in the market (the arm brace drama with the ATF, quick SBR approval times, etc.) Springfield decided it was time for a refresh on the entire Victor line.

They're jumping back in with both feet, and initially offering 16 different Victor SKUs, chambered in 5.56 NATO and 7.62x51 (.308 Win), in rifle, pistol, and SBR format. Even a few with Cerakote finishes, and low-capacity neutered versions for people who insist on living in states which hate individual freedom in general and gun owners specifically.

For this article, I secured a sample of their 5.56 rifle with a 14.5-inch barrel sporting a pinned and welded flash hider to keep it non-NFA legal. Previously, they didn't offer a 5.56 with this length barrel. In 5.56 Springfield also offers 11.5-inch pistols and SBRs, and 16-inch rifles. Prices are either $1,249 or $1,279 depending on the 5.56 model which—and I'll state it right here, at the beginning of the article—is a great price for the features and performance you get. Springfield designed their Victor line to offer everything you need and nothing you don't in a modern AR-15, and they've always delivered. The changes they've done to the new line have only improved the product. Look at that, you didn't even need to read the whole article to get my conclusion. But, if you're interested about the details…

First, let's talk about the barrel contours. So many companies offer "government profile" barrels just because that's the standard. And what the government wants—hence the name, but like everything the government does, it's less than optimal, unnecessarily thick in front of the gas block and with weird contours all over. For the new Victor line, Springfield has



Springfield Armory has done a complete rework of their Saint Victor line, and are coming out with 16 different versions. This is a 5.56 rifle with a pinned and welded flash hider, something they haven't offered before. (James Tarr)

gone with what they call a continuous tapered profile. It is a medium-light contour barrel that, forward of the chamber, is the same diameter everywhere, all the way to the muzzle, except for at the .750-inch gas block.

The barrel is the single heaviest part on an AR-15, and whether you have a light or heavy gun, and how well it is balanced, is usually solely due to the choice in barrel. This is a good barrel weight/profile for a commercial general purpose 5.56 AR, and shifts the weight rearward a little. This gun, empty with no magazine (but including the provided iron sights) weighs six pounds 11 ounces, and would be even lighter with a different stock. It feels lighter than it is because it is not muzzle heavy at all.

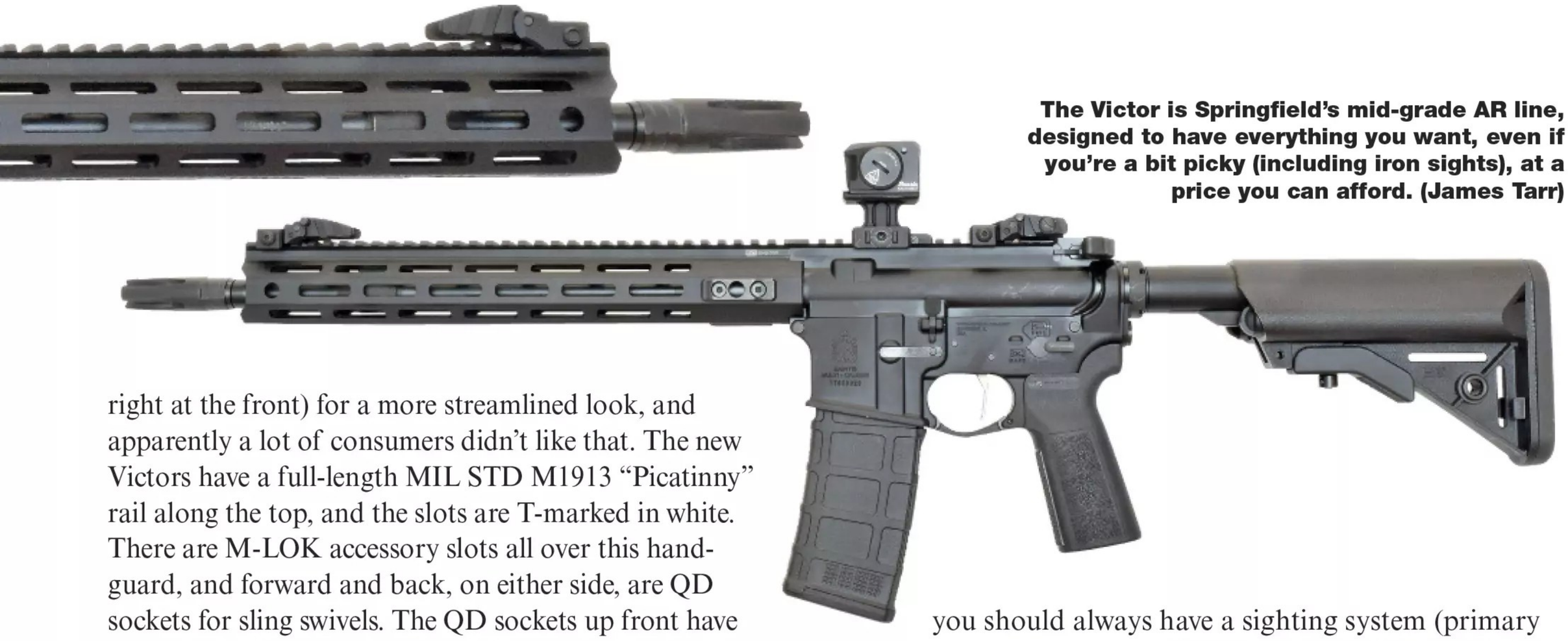
The barrel steel is 4150 chromoly vanadium. It has a 5.56 NATO chamber, mid-length gas system, and a 1:7-inch twist, with a Melonite (nitride) coating. It is tipped with a longer four-prong flash hider that is pinned and welded in place to provide a 16-inch overall length. I go back and forth between 16-inch and 14.5-inch P&W guns, but generally seem to prefer the latter as they are both shorter and lighter, even though you can't swap out the muzzle device. You wouldn't think there would be much of a difference between the two, but I really seem to notice that inch-and-a-half.

While a number of companies make amazingly great ARs where the gas blocks are secured with set screws, for the ultimate in bomb-proof design and reliability you really want a pinned gas block, and that's what Springfield offers on all their Victor ARs. The low-profile gas block is pinned in place underneath the handguard.

Many people consider this the best combination of features for a do everything/hard use rifle, especially the pinned gas block. The larger 5.56 NATO chamber is more reliable when the gun gets dirty. A mid-length gas system is softer recoiling and easier on the parts than a carbine-length, so the gun will last longer. And when it comes to malfunctioning ARs, the biggest culprit is usually the gas system, and pinning your gas block pretty much guarantees your block won't work itself loose, eliminating one potential problem from the equation.

The barrel free floats inside a new handguard design. The handguard on this model is 13.25 inches, and Springfield has different-length handguards for every barrel length. The original Victor handguard didn't have top rails (except

The 14.5-inch-barreled Saint Victor on the left with one of the new 11.5-inch-barreled Saint Victor pistols on the right. They share the new handguard design, flash hiders, and enhanced barrel profile. (James Tarr)



The Victor is Springfield's mid-grade AR line, designed to have everything you want, even if you're a bit picky (including iron sights), at a price you can afford. (James Tarr)

right at the front) for a more streamlined look, and apparently a lot of consumers didn't like that. The new Victors have a full-length MIL STD M1913 "Picatinny" rail along the top, and the slots are T-marked in white. There are M-LOK accessory slots all over this handguard, and forward and back, on either side, are QD sockets for sling swivels. The QD sockets up front have limited rotation, and the ones at the rear of the handguard (also limited rotation) are set in steel plates which also serve to lock the handguard to the barrel nut.

The handguards are 1.5 inches wide and two inches tall, which are getting to be industry standard dimensions for aluminum M-LOK handguards. The aluminum walls on this model are a tiny bit thicker than some I've seen, giving it a little rigidity, which I like. I like the looks and feel of this handguard.

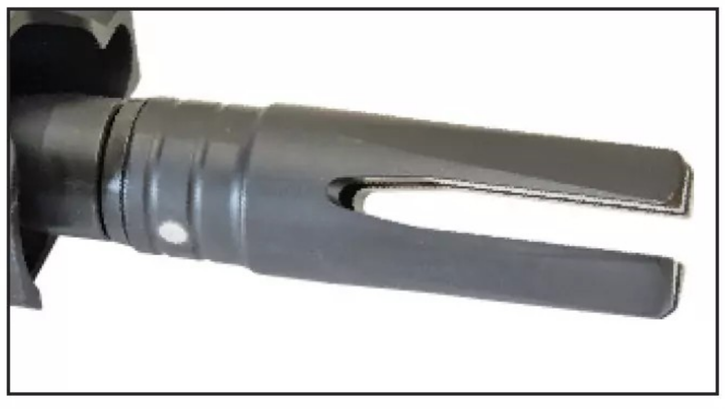
Between the length of this handguard and the number of M-LOK slots you've got room to mount anything and everything you'd want. If you're looking for a serious AR for defensive use, you're going to want a white light mounted at the end of the handguard, positioned where you can work the controls with your support hand. Surefire's Scout is the standard, but Streamlight has great options with their ProTac, and ModLite products are popular with a lot of knowledgeable consumers too. Anything's better than nothing, if you hear your door getting kicked in at 2 a.m.

On my personal ARs, I tend to mount hand stops or short vertical grips, which I use as hand stops. I prefer the BCM short vert grip (and sometimes I cut it down even shorter), and the Emissary Development Handbrake if I go with a hand stop. FYI: you can mount vertical grips on rifles, but it's against federal law to mount one on a pistol.

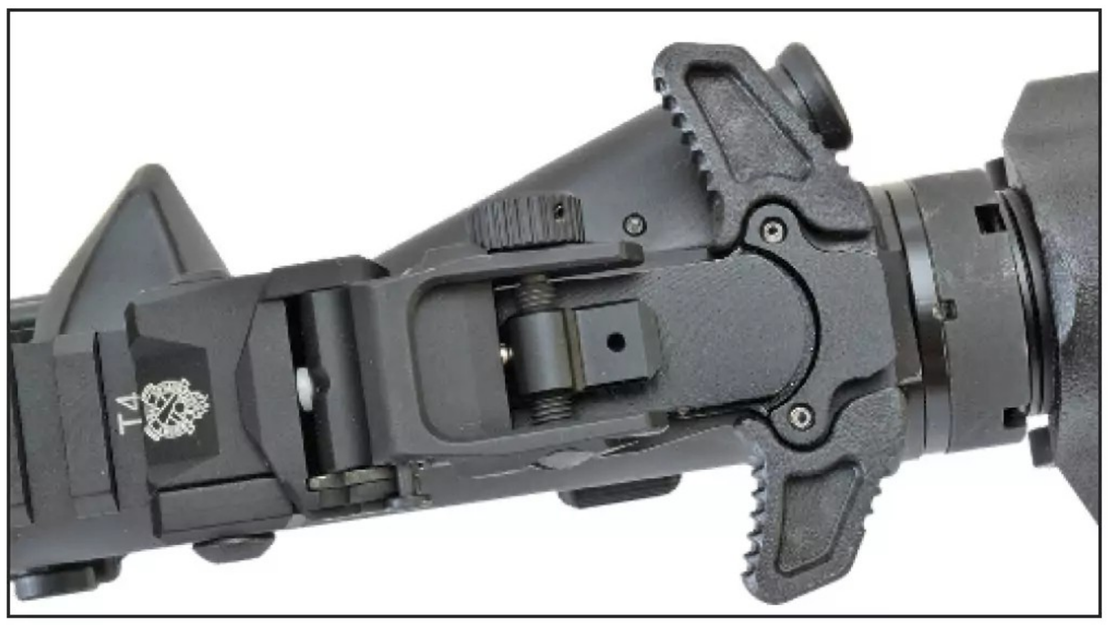
Standard with the Victors are flip-up iron sights, which is a good thing—on rifles intended for social engagements you should always have a sighting system (primary or backup) that isn't dependent upon batteries. The iron sights on the first-generation Victors were designed to take up as little space on the rail as possible; as a result, they sat a bit high when folded. The sights with this model, which I believe are made by Leapers for Springfield, are more traditional. They have aluminum bodies and flip up by hand, where they lock into place. The front sight has the standard post, adjustable for elevation. The rear sight has two apertures, small and large, and is click-adjustable for windage with a thumb knob.

For the ultimate in durability you want a gas block that's pinned in place, and that's what you get with all the Victor rifles. (James Tarr)

The steel plates in the handguards lock into the barrel nut and also sport QD sockets for your sling swivels. Note the caliber marking on the ejection port cover. (James Tarr)



The four-prong flash hider was very effective. Note the weld spot on the bottom, meaning it's permanently attached to the 14.5-inch barrel. (James Tarr)



The Radian Raptor LT charging handle has polymer levers. The quality rear sight, seen here folded down, is mounted too far forward at the factory, and should be moved back so it is flush with the end of the receiver. (James Tarr)

Springfield Armory does continually irritate me with these rear sights, though—whoever mounts them at the factory positions them two rail slots forward of where they should be. The rear sight should be all the way back, so that when folded it is flush with the end of the upper receiver, but doesn't overhang. This provides for the longest sight radius as possible.

The upper and lower receivers are standard forged aluminum models. One thing I didn't notice until comparing the new models to the old is the elimination of the big "SPRINGFIELD ARMORY SAINT" laser-etched in big block letters on the right side of the magazine well. I'm guessing that's in response to consumer requests. Personally, I didn't mind it, but the "Saint" name was polarizing when Springfield announced it, and a lot of people still don't care for it. Now, the right side of the magazine well is unmarked.

A brief digression—when Springfield introduced the first Saint in 2016, a lot of people thought they were way late for the party. I was one of them. Sure, the rifles provided a combination of great features at a price at least $200 lower than the competition, but the market was awash in ARs. Fast-forward five years and Springfield Armory commanded the largest percentage of the American domestic AR market of any manufacturer. I'm not sure if that's still the

The quickest way to spot a Saint Victor is the flat NiB trigger. Tarr likes them. While they're not especially light, they're crisp. (James Tarr)

On the left side of the receiver you'll find Springfield's crossed cannons logo, and nice markings for the selector. What you won't find on the right side of the magazine well is the huge SAINT they've had on previous versions. (James Tarr)

The Victor sports standard forged receivers, but with many upgrades over the GI guns, including a bilateral selector with pictographic markings, oversize charging handle, new pistol grip and trigger guard, etc. (James Tarr)

The bolt carrier has flats machined into it, the Springfield logo etched on the side, and a nitride coating. The caliber is also marked on the inside of the ejection port cover, which is a nice touch. (James Tarr)

For part of his testing, Tarr took the Victor to an indoor range, to see how well the flash hider worked. Even with this affordable Winchester M193 there was no visible flash. (James Tarr)

For most of his shooting Tarr used the new Burris FastFire E optic, which is enclosed and uses an ACRO footprint. He put it in the new Midwest Industries Mk2 QD mount and liked the combination. (James Tarr)

case in the post-COVID era, but I know Springfield still owns a big chunk of the AR market, and this Saint Victor refresh is only going to expand that.

On the left side of the lower receiver, you'll see Springfield's crossed cannons logo, and "SAINT MULTI-CALBER" in small letters above the serial number. You get nice pictograph markings for the selector.

You get all the features on the upper receiver you would expect and should want—ejection port cover, brass deflector, and forward assist. The magazine release and bolt catch are GI standard. The charging handle is an oversize Radian Raptor LT with bilateral polymer handles. The selector is a bilateral model with a 45-degree throw. The right-side lever on the selector is shorter, so it won't poke your trigger finger, and wouldn't even if it pivoted 90 degrees. The trigger guard is an oversize polymer model from B5 Systems, and the pistol grip is a Type 23 P-Grip also from B5 Systems. It is more vertical than the original GI A2 grip and has very aggressive texturing.

Most of us tend to like what we're familiar with. I've been shooting AR-15s since I built my first one in 1986 or so, which means I've got forty years of practice using standard GI-style 90-degree selectors, which means I don't like 45-degree selectors. However, ergonomically, I have to agree that they are probably superior, and you can ride the selector with your thumb, which reminds me of the days when I competed with and carried a 1911, where (if you know what you're doing) you ran it with a thumb-high hold on the safety.

On the topic of controls that you're used to, you'll note that the Saint Victor does not sport bilateral (that's the correct term, not ambidextrous) bolt or magazine releases. Some people like those, but the Saint Victor line is meant to give the average consumer everything they need and nothing they don't in an AR, and Springfield Armory apparently feels like I do, that bilateral bolt and magazine releases are unnecessary. For the most part, I think "ambidextrous" controls on ARs are just a waste of money (unless you're a lefty) but enlarged/improved controls aren't.

All Saint Victor rifles come equipped with Springfield's enhanced nickel-boron (NiB) coated flat single stage trigger. Generally, I don't care for flat-faced triggers in ARs, but I've always liked the model on the Victors, both in looks and feel under the finger. Trigger pull on every sample I've tried has been about six pounds and relatively smooth, which is not exactly match grade but still better than the average GI-style gritty trigger pull. The trigger pull on this rifle was 6.25 pounds—not great, but not terrible. An upgraded (lighter, crisper) trigger pull would be nice, but would raise the cost of the Victor, and truthfully the difference would be wasted on most consumers.

The enhanced M16 bolt carrier group is finished with Melonite just like the barrel. The gas key is properly staked. Springfield's specs say the bolt is 9310 steel and HPT/MPI tested, and I found MP etched on the bolt itself. Behind the bolt carrier is an H (heavy) buffer.

At the rear of the receiver, you'll see a QD sling swivel socket in the receiver end plate. The castle nut, I was happy to see, was properly staked.

Hidden from view inside the receiver is Springfield's Accu-Tite tension system. This is a nylon-tipped screw that

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S SAINT VICTOR RIFLE

Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Best Group / Avg. Group (in.)
.223 REMINGTON					
Hornady American Gunner HP	55	2,905	59	31	1.20 / 2.04
Federal Fusion SP	62	2,803	41	27	1.07 / 1.29
5.56 NATO					
Winchester FMJ	55	2,958	66	30	1.64 / 2.05
Black Hills Mk 262 Mod 1-C	77	2,601	26	17	0.93 / 1.15

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 100 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

The best group measured 0.93 of an inch fired with Black Hills' Mk262 Mod 1-C, the 77-grain OTM round developed for use in Afghanistan. It is very accurate, and hits much harder at range than standard 55- or 62-grain loads. (James Tarr)

you access through the bottom of the receiver, through the grip. When screwed in, it binds on the bottom of the rear lug of the upper receiver, eliminating play between the two receivers. This should tighten up groups a tiny bit and eliminates any rattle in the receivers, but the two receivers had a nicely snug fit even before using this screw.

The stock rides on a six-position buffer tube. The stock is the Enhanced SOPMOD model made by B5 Systems and sells separately for $100. The SOPMOD stocks were originally designed by Crane NSWC for the Navy SEALs, and they feature two water-resistant tubular compartments under the cheek swell, useful for storing batteries or spare parts for your bolt. This "enhanced model" adds a steel anti-rotation QD sling socket. There are also two slots for slings, and a rubber buttpad. The stock itself weighs 12.2 ounces. I've run across a number of these stock recently, and all of them have a minor issue—the front of the polymer stock has a very sharp edge. If you've got facial hair you may find it grabbing onto you. Fortunately, this is a quick fix—pull the stock off, and run a hand file over that sharp corner for about ten seconds. Still, this is something B5 should be doing in-house.

The Saint Victor comes with iron sights and one magazine (Gen M3 Magpul PMag), but in addition to that you get a nylon rifle case with attached magazine pouches, which is a very nice extra.

For accuracy testing, I mounted a Trijicon Credo 1-10X scope (Trijicon.com). Performance on that scope is great, but it's big and heavy and completely changes the feel of this short, otherwise light rifle. For everything else, I topped the Victor with the new Burris FastFire E—E for enclosed (BurrisOptics.com). This is a new red dot optic that uses the Aimpoint ACRO mounting platform. It has a 3.5 MOA dot, eight daytime/2 NV brightness settings, a 60,000-hour advertised battery life, and IPX7 water resistance. The rubberized control buttons are at the top of the unit.

I've always thought optics like this looked dumb on pistols, like someone stuck a loaf of pumpernickel bread atop their slide, but on a carbine or AR pistol, they make great sense—they are small and add almost no weight, and because they are sitting closer to your eye, that window looks and feels bigger. Any optic built to handle the G-forces that come from being mounted on a pistol slide won't even notice the faint recoil of a 5.56 rifle. I mounted the FastFire on one of the new Mk 2 QD mounts from Midwest Industries (MidwestIndustriesInc.com). MI offers this mount in four heights, and I got the "lower 1/3" height so if the dot goes out, I can flip up my iron sights and use them through the lower third of the window. Or just pop the optic off entirely, which is why I prefer QD optic mounts. The Midwest Industries mounts look good and the QD lever is quick to use and easy to adjust—no tools needed.

I did all of my shooting using the provided Magpul Gen M3 PMag (Magpul.com). They are the current standard for

Police officers generally zero their patrol rifles for 50 yards as almost all of their shootings are within this range. (Andy Grossman)

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The Saint Victor disassembles without tools like every other AR-15. You can tell how much Tarr has been shooting this one from the nearly black firing pin. (James Tarr)

reliability, and if your gun doesn't run with one of them, the problem is your gun. The Saint Victor was 100% reliable—just like very Saint I've ever tested over the years. The rifle seemed to be generously gassed, based on the recoil—a little heavier than I was expecting from a mid-length gas system—and the ejection pattern, which spit the cases out aggressively at 2 o'clock in a straight line, to land twenty feet away. FYI, heavier than expected recoil from a 5.56 means that it's still soft enough for your grandmother to shoot.

There are a lot of very good reasons why the AR-15 in .223/5.56 is the most popular rifle in America, and low recoil is on the list. Reliable, fun to shoot, holds a lot of ammo, short/light, easy to accessorize/upgrade… the list is a long one. There is a reason why, whether you are military, police, or private citizen, the AR-15 is the rifle of choice.

Apart from accuracy testing, most of my shooting was running and gunning from point-blank range out to about fifty yards. Offhand, standing supported, and working from behind various cover. Mostly, I was working on quick target transitions and follow-up shots. All of my personal 5.56 ARs are zeroed at 50 yards, as if I ever have to use one in self-defense it will likely be at very close range—likely indoors. A 50-yard zero will keep you on target out to 250 yards or more, depending on your choice of ammo.

FYI: you'll see we got a local police officer for some of our photos, and most departments, which authorize AR-15s have their officers zero them at 50 yards. This is done for two reasons—one, it's often difficult to find ranges longer than 50 yards, and two, almost all their shootings, even with rifles, are fifty yards and in.

With a 14.5-inch P&W barrel, you get as much velocity as possible while being as short as a non-NFA rifle can be. As this is America's gun, chambered in America's most popular rifle caliber, there is an endless number of ammunition variations (with bullets between 35 to 77 grains), but the vast majority of what you'll find are 55- or 62-grainers. Even limited to those weights, you can find everything from rapidly expanding thin-walled bullets great for varmints or home invaders (Hornady's V-Max) to bonded bullets suitable for hunting larger game (Federal's Fusion). Cops have dropped a lot of bad guys with that V-Max bullet (loaded into the TAP line), and I myself have killed both hogs and a gator with Federal's 62-grain Fusion load. For practice and training and just having fun, 55-grain

Tarr considers the Saint Victor line of AR-type rifles to be superior to many other brands in the same price class. (Andy Grossman)

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(Photo by Andy Grossman)

FMJ is probably the most affordable option out there, and I did a lot of my shooting with Winchester "white box" M193 55-grain FMJ.

I frequently get asked, "*Okay, I read your review, but what do you really think?*" I think I've reviewed a lot of Springfield Armory Saint rifles over the years, and have bought two of them. I still own the Saint Edge pistol I bought, and love it. I bought the original Saint rifle I reviewed almost a decade ago. When America was test-marketing fascism using COVID as an excuse and things were looking very bleak, I learned a friend of mine didn't own a rifle, and I gave him the SAINT, and mags, and ammo (as everyone should own a rifle). Please note I have very few friends, and they meet this definition—"An acquaintance helps you move, a friend helps you move a body." Me gifting him the Saint doesn't show how little I value it, but rather how much.

The Saint Victors, based on construction and price, I would consider a "mid-grade" AR, best compared to Ruger or Smith & Wesson products, and I feel the Saint Victor is superior to the other two brands. If I didn't already have far more ARs than I need I'd probably be buying this one.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S SAINT VICTOR RIFLE	
Caliber:	5.56 NATO
Weight:	6 lbs., 11 oz.
Overall Length:	32.0 in. (stock collapsed), 35.25 in. (stock extended)
Receiver:	Forged aluminum
Barrel:	14.5 in., CMV, mid-length gas system, 1:7 in. twist, Melonited
Gas Block:	Compact, pinned
BCG:	Melonited
Muzzle Device:	SA flash hider, pinned and welded
Stock:	B5 Systems Enhanced SOPMOD
Pistol Grip:	B5 Systems Type 23 P-Grip
Handguard:	13 in. aluminum, M-LOK compatible
Charging Handle:	Radian Raptor LT
Trigger:	Flat, NiB coated, single stage, 6.25 lbs. (as tested)
Sights:	Flip-up, aluminum and steel
Accessories:	One 30-rd. magazine, soft case
MSRP:	$1,249
Manufacturer:	Springfield-Armory.com, (800) 680-6866

I still think "Saint" is a weird name, but it sure hasn't hurt their sales. As I've said before, I want everyone to own an AR, so that when they come for one, they have to come for us all, and Springfield seems to be doing everything they can to help make that a reality. FN

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Not afraid to get its paws wet...the Colt Kodiak thrives in less-than-ideal conditions! (Rikk Rambo)

COLT'S BACKCOUNTRY-CARRY "BIG BEAR" WHEELGUN IS BACK: THE .44 MAGNUM KODIAK!

By Rikk Rambo

2021 Flashback: Big Snakes and Hangry Bears!

The deep, dark forests of Alaska's Kenai peninsula can be a spooky and disconcerting place for a solo bear hunter…even one with two decades of Alaskan hunting experience and nearly a dozen bruins under his belt (and throughout the last two decades, in his chest freezer). Night approaches stealthily, arrives abruptly, and carries with it a degree of murkiness and foreboding that can only be appreciated when experienced firsthand.

When the moment of truth arrived, it was swift, violent, and definitive. A sizeable black bear boar announced its approach with low-pitched malevolent vocalizations and entered my 50-yard handgun kill-zone. It was hot on the trail of a sow and three tiny first-year cubs which had passed under my tree-stand minutes earlier. Both black and brown bears, especially large boars, are notorious for cannibalizing smaller bears and cubs, and our shaggy bruin's eagerness to run down the mother and her babies was about to incur a massive penalty.

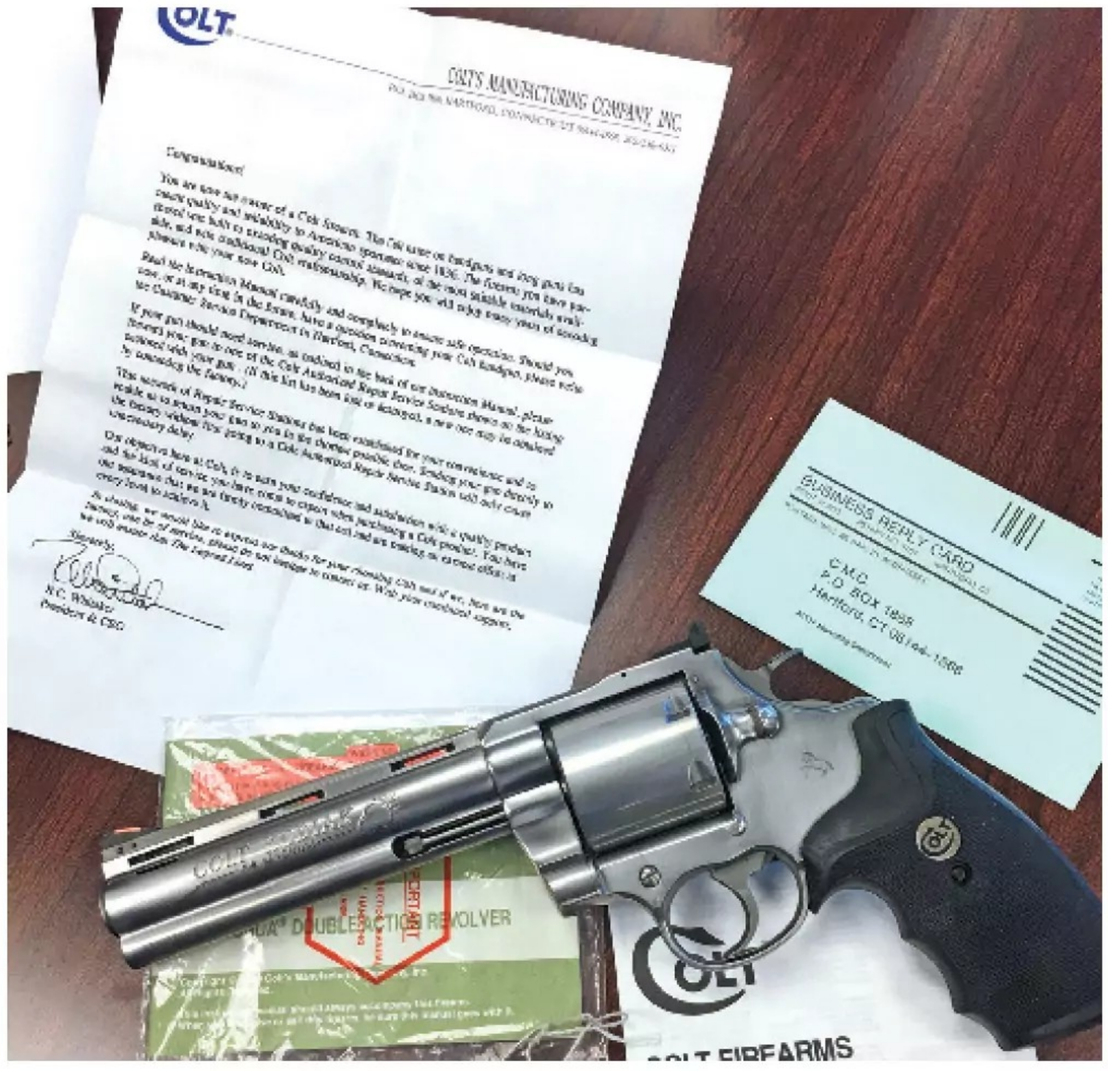
The latest generation of Colt's .44 magnum Anaconda (aka: "The Big Snake") firmly grasped in my mitts ended the boar's cub-killing/sow-wooing aspirations in two surgical shots. The six-inch Colt's first downrange 300-grain Hornady XTP fire-mission destroyed the boar's heart, followed by an immediate follow-up shot that devastated its lungs. Two Hornady-induced stumble-steps forward were all the big bear could muster before piling up in front of my position…dead as Julius Caesar. In mere seconds, the large, ill-intentioned boar was enroute to his happy, cub-murdering hunting grounds well before the thundering crash of the Anaconda's concussive funeral announcement had ceased reverberating through the rapidly darkening arboreal forest it had been a master of only moments before.

It was a happy ending for the sow and her cubs, as well as my chest freezer, but that was then (2021) and this is now (2025).

Fortunately for Colt fans, the ongoing saga of the Anaconda and its legendary Python, King Cobra, and viper kin has continued into 2025 with enthusiastic vigor. In late 2024, another legendary magnum Colt revolver came out of hibernation after a long sabbatical...and unlike its snake-family

The Kodiak's equally predatory "Snake Family" Kin: The Anaconda. (Jay Sjogren)

◄ A Kodiak… packin' a Kodiak! Rikk's 2012 Kodiak boar (aka "Hot Karl")! (Rikk Rambo)



► Colt's first-generation Kodiak (1993), serial number 1 of 2,000! (Photo Courtesy of Mike Root)

brethren, its namesake was hot-blooded and far-removed from any reptilian marketing nomenclature.

The backwoods-carry "blast from the past" Colt recently re-released hails from an entirely different class, order, genus, and species than its "Slytherin House" cold-blooded snake family members. Enter… The Kodiak.

Colt's recently reintroduced Kodiak mirrored its namesake's penchant for denning-up and engaging in long sabbaticals away from the rest of the world…but with one glaring difference: instead of one winter, the "Big Bear" remained in "snooze mode" for over three decades!

Originally introduced by Colt's Custom Shop in 1993, and produced in a limited run, the Kodiak is back on the prowl. In a figurative act of "flipping the bird" to the status quo, the name of the formidable revolver marked a departure from Colt's longstanding tradition of naming their 20th century big-bore revolvers after what ophiophobes and Samuel L. Jackson fear most (on or off a plane)!

Given the revolver's namesake, it was only logical for the revamped Kodiak to travel north to its alma mater state. Once in the 49th, it was subjected to rigorous range-testing before venturing out into the backcountry and serving as a bear self-defense handgun for the spring and summer of 2025. However, since everyone loves a cliffhanger, we'll get to the Kodiak's range performance and 49th State backcountry trials and tribulations after a brief history lesson.

The Legend of Colt's "Big Bear"

The original Colt Kodiak was introduced to big-bore hand-gunners in an era when true-life tales of the legendary coastal brown bears of the 49th state's Kodiak Island were, with few exceptions, only accessible via the proprietary accounts of grizzled bear hunting guides, a select number of sportsmen, and occasional television episodes of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" or National Geographic. The mystique behind the massive bears of Kodiak, as well as their power and efficacy in surviving the wilds of coastal Alaska were a perfect fit for Colt's custom shop .44 magnum. If name association is an important marketing strategy, they couldn't have picked a more robust and insanely powerful animal as a mascot.

During my 21 years in the 49th State, I have been lucky enough to hike and hunt the wilds of Kodiak and her sister island, Afognak, on multiple occasions. During these ventures, I was gifted with extraordinary opportunities to observe their massive coastal bears ply their trade in the wild on numerous occasions. During one of these, I witnessed an 11-foot tall, 1,200-pound Kodiak boar hoist and claw its way directly up a 3,000 foot near-vertical avalanche chute in pursuit of unknown prey without slowing down or exhibiting any visible signs of fatigue. During a

Rikk Rambo with his 10-foot plus Kodiak Bear harvested in 2012 during a two-man non-guided expedition… (Rikk Rambo)

Colt's Backcountry-Carry "Big Bear" Wheelgun is Back

Cannibal (an Alaskan coastal brown bear). (Rikk Rambo)

Dirty Rikky! Rikk Rambo showcasing the Kodiak to the most Dirty-Harry-ish of his abilities! (Rikk Rambo)

The Clinical Kodiak: Port and Starboard Views of the "Big Bear." (Rikk Rambo)

separate encounter, I watched in amazement as a similar Volkswagen-sized predatory bruin chased down a smaller bear across a massive glacier with less effort than a Michael Moore piloting a mobility scooter down the "Chips and Soda" aisle of his local grocery store. Fortunately for suburban shoppers, while brown bear are cannibalistic, Michael Moore likely subsists on a more benign diet of Totino's Party Pizzas, Hostess snack-cakes, and triple quarter-pounders with cheese.

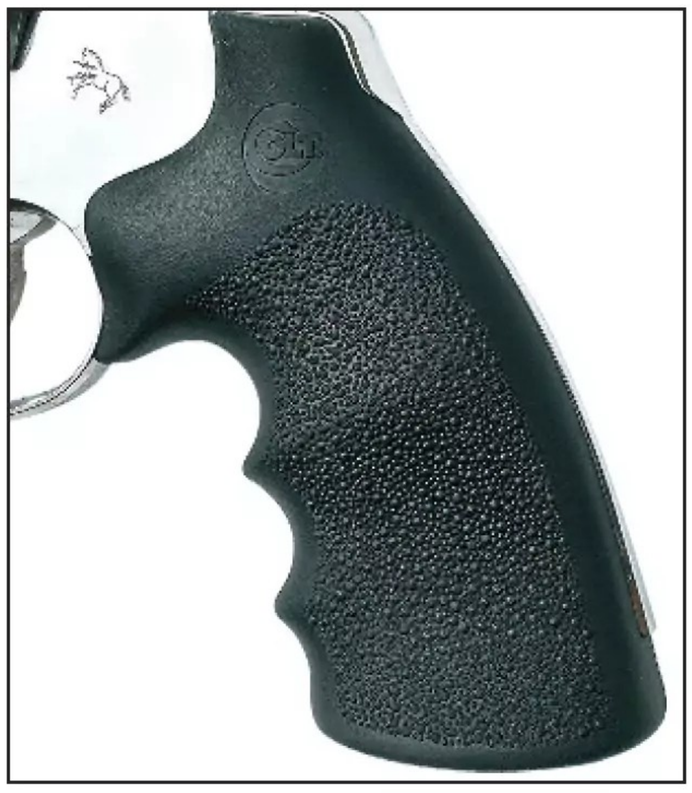
The first-generation Kodiak was originally introduced to U.S. handgunners as a special and limited custom-run of only 2,000 and was based on the stylings of the Anaconda. The first run of stainless-steel Kodiaks featured a Python reminiscent ventilated rib topping a four- or six-inch barrel with a full-length under-barrel lug. The revolver's standout feature, however, was one not common to production handguns in the early nineties: A recoil-mitigating ported barrel.

The Anaconda and Kodiak were Colt's answer to what firearms historians refer to as the "Dirty Harry/Smith and Wesson Model 29 Era of Supremacy." The Dirty Harry franchise instantly propelled both the .44 Remington Magnum cartridge and S&W Model 29 into uber-celebrity status amongst wheel gun enthusiasts. The popularity of the "most powerful production handgun cartridge on the planet" was not lost on Colt, Ruger, and Dan Wesson, and a terrestrial, wheel gun-specific version of the Cold War's space-race went into overdrive in the Model 29's celebrity-status wake. When the fur quit flying and the dust settled, Ruger's Super Redhawk proved itself to be a practical, formidable adversary of the S&W Model 29…but (and that "but" should be capitalized), the Colt Anaconda and Kodiak had a certain je ne sais quoi that just couldn't be ignored.

What wasn't widely known amongst magnum-caliber enthusiasts, however, was that the first-run 1990's Anaconda and Kodiak suffered from shortcomings in both design and refinement. The reason for this was simple…while the .44 magnum "Big Snake" and "Big Bear" mirrored the handsome silhouette of the Python (its .357 magnum smaller-in-stature superstar cousin), their internal workings were NOT based on those of the highly vaunted Python, but rather the functional but unremarkable Colt Trooper MK series.

The Trooper MK's were never meant to be highly refined, top-shelf wheel guns, but rather practical, budget-minded law enforcement duty handguns…and their price point reflected their niche in the market. Kodiak critics, including several owners I spoke with personally who owned the 1993 editions, focused the bulk of their dismay on one noticeable detractor…the trigger…which they described in terms such as "rough," "grainy," and "cumbersome."

Fortunately, the days of unremarkable main springs and other non-braggable Trooper MK III innards went the way of the dodo nearly three decades after acid-washed jeans were on their journey to the fashion faux-pas list, and Monica Lewinsky's dry-cleaners finally quit having to deal with all of those awkward questions at the family Thanksgiving dinner table.



◄ Hogue's over molded rubber grips are textured for positive handgun retention in wet conditions and still sport the Colt logo. (Rikk Rambo)

► Maritime conditions call for heart attack serious grips... and Hogue delivers! (Rikk Rambo)

"Gross Anatomy" of Colt's Aesthetically Pleasing Kodiak

Flash forward three decades to a new era...one of lessons learned, manufacturing process upgraded, and the "Build it Like a Python" doctrine followed. The new and improved Anaconda and 2nd generation Kodiak are completely different animals (there was no getting around that one!) than their first-generation ancestors. Colt "Pythonized" the Anaconda and Kodiak by adding linear leaf spring actions, beefing up the top strap (drilled and tapped to be optic-friendly), and including upgrades such as user replaceable front sights and re-engineered adjustable rear sights.

The Kodiak is a tangible, but more importantly, *wieldable* example of the old adage "If it isn't broke, don't fix it" in relation to its beloved Python-esque silhouette. The newly released Kodiak still retains its 1993 predecessor's iconic ventilated rib, full barrel underlug, and unfluted cylinder. There have been some changes incorporated into current generation in addition to its inner workings.

We'll start at the grips and work forward. The original generation of Kodiaks were outfitted with what I considered growing up in the 70's and 80's as the "Cadillac of rubberized revolver grips" …Pachmayrs. The Kodiak's Pachmayr grips supplemented their practicality with a bit of class as well. This came in the form of a gold Colt logo inset on one side and Colt's "feisty horse" avatar inset on the other. Today's Kodiak still sports the practical, field-ready grips you would expect to find on a handgun that may see rough service in wet, less than ideal climatic conditions, but under a different manufacturer's banner: Hogue. Hogue's over molded rubber grips are textured for positive handgun retention in wet conditions and still sport the Colt logo…albeit in matte-black and stamped into the rubber itself.

Now on to something I've been chomping at the bit to crow about…the Kodiak's action…specifically the trigger… and its performance when shooting double action.

Ulysses Everett McGill: "Hold on, I don't want this pomade. I want Dapper Dan."

General Store Clerk: "I don't carry Dapper Dan, I carry Fop."

*Ulysses Everett McGill: "Well I don't want Fop, ***dammit! I'm a Dapper Dan Man!"*

-Ulysses Everet McGill (George Clooney) in the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

The trigger-press for our test revolver averaged 9.1 pounds during double-action testing and 5.72 pounds in single-action mode. (Rikk Rambo)

Post-mortem of a double-action 160-grain HoneyBadger from Black Hills Ammunition getting launched downrange. (Rikk Rambo)

▲ Unfluted cylinders like the Kodiak's provide additional strength and pressure resistance when firing heavier loads. (Rikk Rambo)

► The classic Colt cylinder release is rearward activated. (Rikk Rambo)

▼ There are barrels, and then there are BARRELS. The Kodiak rocks one that is a 10 on the classiness scale! (Rikk Rambo)

While I don't have enough hair to hold an opinion on hair gels, I do have to say, in the spirit of transparency, that I'm a Smith & Wesson man, *gosh-dang-it* (I have to watch the vernacular…my good 'ol mom might be reading this)!

This affection doesn't preclude me from having an affinity for other fine revolvers from legendary manufacturers like Ruger, Nighthawk Customs/Korth, and Colt, but that fact remains that I'm an unabashed Smith & Wesson big-bore revolver fanboy. I grew up with them and used them to hunt everything from whitetails and groundhogs to moose and bear. My penchant for going afield with them became even more intense when their Performance Center team started churning out purpose-driven X-Frame hunting handguns.

THIS is what makes what I'm about to say even more poignant: The Colt Kodiak's double-action trigger pull is the smoothest and most predictable I have ever experienced on a production wheelgun…even when compared to my S&W Performance Center pet revolvers! The hammer-arc, from the initial trigger-press to primer strike, is also extremely short…or at least the perception of it is, thanks to its buttery smoothy engineering. Not to sound dramatic, but in my mental firearms dictionary, if you look up the term "non-stacking," there's a picture of the 2nd Generation Kodiak next to it. The trigger-press for our test revolver averaged 9.1 pounds during double-action testing and 5.72 pounds in single-action mode.

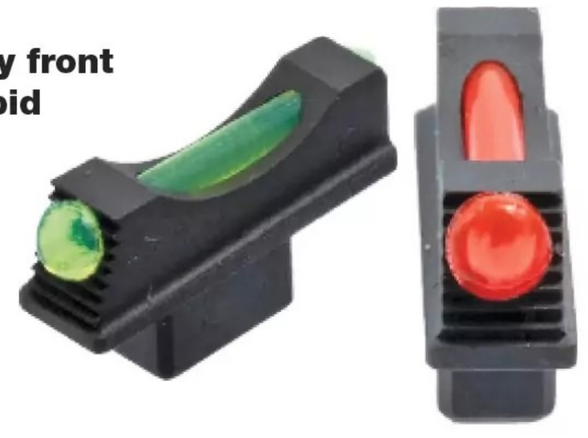
The revolver's unfluted cylinder and full lug barrel, complimented by its ventilated rib upper provides the Kodiak with its unmistakable lines and iconic silhouette, but there is one noticeable difference in its geography that differs from its 1993 first-run predecessor. That departure involves its recoil-reducing gas ports. The first-generation Kodiaks were machined with classic "Mag-Na-Port" style oblong slot ports to reduce felt-recoil whereas the new generation of "Big Bears" features three round ports on each side of the barrel. Both styles are effective at mitigating recoil, but round ports allow for gas to escape more smoothly and less turbulently. This lends itself to greater pressure consistency and consistent recoil dampening. Round ports are also less prone to carbon buildup and fouling thanks to the absence of sharp angles and edges.

The revolver's barrel also retained a previous design coup supporting its rough and tumble mission as a backcountry firearm…a protected muzzle crown. For those of us who are prone to dropping things…especially while climbing through boulder-fields or other unforgiving terrain features, the Kodiak rocks a recessed barrel protected by a false muzzle. This serves to protect the rifling at the end of the barrel and prevent accuracy-inhibiting damage resulting from drops or other mishaps.

While the Kodiak has all of the trappings of a solid "backwoods gun," I do have one major beef with its design.… the sights. Individual skillsets aside, mission-appropriate sights are often the final arbiter in success or failure when the chips are down, and you are placed in the unenviable position of employing your firearm for self-defense. Quite often, critical incidents occur at the most inopportune moments and in challenging climatic and/or lighting conditions.

The Kodiak's sights are what I would classify as "hailing from the fair-weather friends" variety. They are adequate for a bluebird day at the range, but for a volatile confrontation with a brown bear in a shadowy patch of spruce… not so much. While the front sight houses a reddish orange insert, I wouldn't describe it as vivid. Its orange coloration isn't as brightly hued as "hunter's orange" or modern fluorescent orange and is difficult to discern in mediocre or poor lighting. The rear adjustable sight, however, is the

A look at the Kodiak's current iron sights. (Rikk Rambo)



Wilson Combat high-visibility front sights to the rescue…for rapid engagements (and not the kind that require pre-nups)! (Wilson Combat)

most serious violator when it comes to the subject of visibility. It is matte-black, with no visible reference marks…not even a white outline for the notch. The Kodiak's primary mission is backcountry defense…and while the rest of the wheel gun's engineering bodes well for promoting efficacy in that role, the sights are throwbacks to those that rode atop its predecessors four decades ago.

Fortunately, there are several fairly simple work-arounds…in the form of Harrison Design and Wilson Combat aftermarket sights. Harrison Design has engineered multiple sights designed to enhance visibility and target acquisition speeds. Their sights include not only high-visibility fluorescent front sights, but also versions that feature fiber-optic inserts and tritium (HarrisonCustom.com). Wilson Combat also entered the "Are you kidding me with those archaic things" fray with both green and red high-visibility fiber optic front sights WilsonCombat.com).

One Handgun, Two Range Tests: Irons vs. Optics!

The Kodiak is one of those near-perfect handguns platforms for adventurers heading into the deep dark wood. This is thanks to its powerful .44 magnum chambering paring well with a frame that allows for a comfortable chest or hip carry. For "close-in" handgun hunters, it's also capable of harvesting medium game, including black bear, at "tree-stand" distances. Because of the Kodiak's dual-capabilities, I decided to range-test it with its old-school iron sights (close quarter self-defense) *and* a Hi-Lux (Hi-LuxOptics.com) TD-3C red-dot sight (handgun hunting). In that regard, we sent four different mission-appropriate rounds down-range from the 25-yard line and here's the juice on the testing protocol and how they fared. All groups were shot from the bench using an aging but still going strong Caldwell Pistolero handgun rest.

The backwoods defense phase involved two purpose-driven .44 magnum self-defense loads from Black Hills Ammunition (Black-Hills.com) and Hornady (Hornady.com).

The first "things are about to get real" defensive cartridge was the Black Hills Ammunition 160-grain "HoneyBadger." It is a non-deforming "I hope you are hiding behind three construction-site dumpsters and a bulldozer" cartridge specifically engineered for deep-penetration. I was lucky enough to go hunting several years ago with Mike Cyrus, the ballistician who was instrumental in developing the bullet that sits on top of the HoneyBadger, several years ago on Afognak Island. Afognak is Kodiak's sister island and notorious for…shocker…large coastal bears! Mike, who is an extremely humble and non-flamboyant man, described the round's capabilities in detail… and its design is one meant to get to the meat and potatoes (or lungs, brain, heart) of a well-muscled, thick-boned adversary of any North American brand. Its solid copper construction (no lead) showcases a profile not unlike an archery broadhead, and it is this design that delivers a larger wound channel than the majority of similarly purposed bullets of its class. The HoneyBadger's recoil was surprisingly mild, which bodes well for follow-up shots in a close-quarter melee. It's downrange performance (three five-shot groups at 25-yards) yielded a 2.01-inch group average and a 1.78-inch "Best in Show" group.

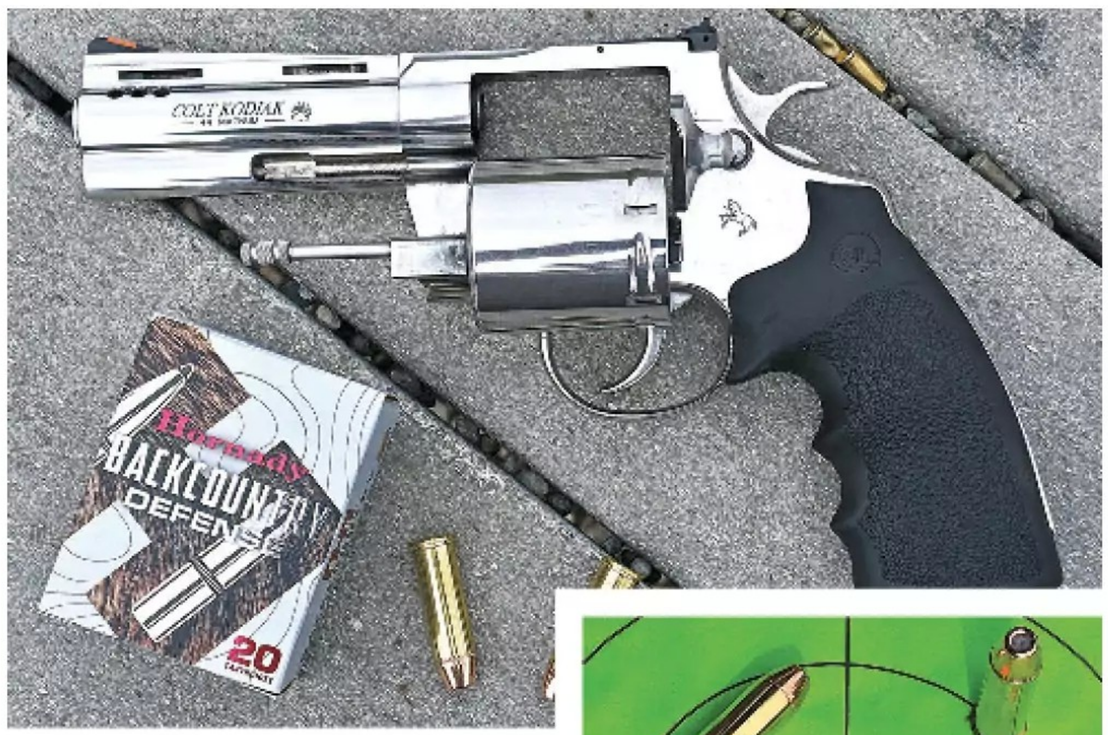
The second dangerous game defense load was Hornady's 240-grain "Back Country Defense" round. This dam-buster is topped with a 240-grain proprietary DGH (Dangerous Game

Iron sights are great for rapid, close-quarter dustups, but a RDS like the Hi-Lux TD-3C will put the period at the end of a game animal's sentence when hunting. (Rikk Rambo)

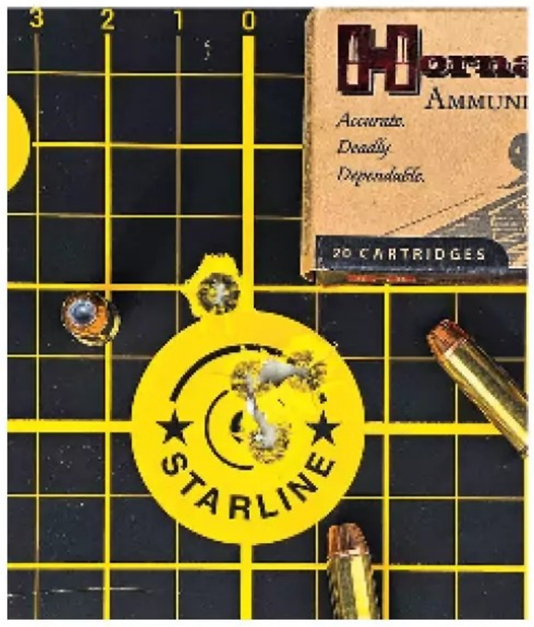
The Hi-Lux TD-3C dot optic features a 3 MOA red dot or a 32 MOA segmented circle-dot reticle with 50,000 hours of battery life (medium settings) and is night vision capable. (Hi-Lux Optics)

◄ Scary rounds make scary holes: The 160-grain HoneyBadger's best out of three" 1.78-inch group at 25 yards. (Rikk Rambo)

◄ What's in a name? Ask Hornady! Their 200-grain "Handgun Hunter" bestie group measured 1.488 inches from the bench at 25 yards with a 1.71-inch average. (Rikk Rambo)



► The best offense is a good defense... and Hornady's BCD tank-busters got their licks in with a solid 2.90-inch best overall group at 25 yards. (Rikk Rambo)



◄ Lots of horsepower... and accuracy! At 25 yards, the Hornady 300-grain Custom XTP knocked out a convincing 1.53-inch bestie and 1.79 average group. (Rikk Rambo)

Handgun) bullet purposed to penetrate tough hide, break thick bones, and get to a place in a marauding foe that will end its gusto and desire to process you into a "Not-So-Happy Meal." The 240-grain projectile topping this round utilizes a core emulates the deep, straight-line penetration of "tried and true" hard-cast lead projectiles, but thanks to a "wrap-around" jacket, disallows barrel fouling or that pesky lead-smoke associated with hard-cast bullets. Its group average was 2.93 inches, and the most accurate group-size was 2.90 inches.

The second phase of accuracy testing was geared towards our handgun hunters out there. I added the Hi-Lux red dot sight to the Kodiak and knocked holes in paper (and also the space/time continuum) with Hornady's zippy 200-grain Monoflex "Handgun Hunter" and 300 Grain Custom XTP cartridges. This is the same bullet I utilized to great effect on that black bear mentioned earlier.

Both cartridges benefited greatly from the combination of the Hi-Lux red dot and solid rest in relation to accuracy. On a cautionary note, be aware that when mounting a red dot or other optic to a magnum handgun, it is advisable to incorporate Loctite Threadlocker Blue (or a similar removable thread locking juice) into the mix to ensure your sight remains "right and tight."

Hornady's hunting cartridges were treated to a slow fire, "pretend you are shooting to fill your freezer for the year" degree of seriousness...and the results did not disappoint. The Handgun Hunter ammunition smashed a bestie of 1.49 inches at 25 yards and followed that up with a 1.71-inch group average. The 300-grain Custom XTP followed its little cousin's lead with a 1.53-inch bestie and a 1.79-inch average.

COLT KODIAK .44 REMINGTON MAGNUM

25 YARDS - THREE FIVE-SHOT GROUPS

Manufacturer	Weight (gr.)	Bullet Type	Average / Best (in.)
Black Hills Ammunition "HoneyBadger"	160	Monolithic Copper	2.01 / 1.78
Hornady Backcountry Defense	240	DGH JHP	2.93 / 2.90
Hornady Handgun Hunter	200	MONOFLEX JHP	1.71 / 1.49
Hornady Custom	300	XTP	1.79 / 1.53

Survival Means Finding a Good "Den": The Kodiak's Backcountry Travels

While I didn't have an opportunity to test the Kodiak's efficacy on a handgun hunt, I did put it through its paces in the backcountry throughout the spring and summer of this year. The Kodiak's fit and finish were put the ringer in both abysmal (and salty) maritime duty serving as a "boat gun" to serving as my primary backcountry bear defense handgun while hiking trail-running in Alaska's rugged Chugach and Wrangell Mountain ranges.

It survived Alaska's ornery weather thanks to its stainless-steel construction. It also graduated from its *Firearms News* "Outward Bound 2.0" backcountry travels thanks to two holsters that are tough enough to be handed down to your grandchildren. The first of these is the "Kodiak" Chest Rig from designer William Sproul of Just In Case Holsters

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Nothing tests your equipment like a good romp in the woods…or a hundred of them. Here's what will work for your Kodiak or other backwoods carry or hunting handgun:

JUST IN CASE HOLSTERS "KODIAK" CHEST RIG—JUSTINCASEHOLSTERS.COM

Ease and comfort of carry are paramount for a backwoods handgun. (Courtesy of William Sproul/Just In Case Holsters)

The "Just In Case Holsters" Kodiak is engineered and designed to make Kydex or leather chest holsters of lesser quality run home and cry to mama. The leather, fittings, and stitching are world-class, and the build is geared towards outdoors folk who will be carrying their handguns on long jaunts into difficult terrain and challenging conditions. The Kodiak is immediately comfortable with no break-in period and will serve you (and likely your grandchildren) well in the toughest of conditions.

DIAMOND D LEATHER "GUIDES CHOICE" CHEST RIG—DIAMONDDCUSTOMLEATHER.COM

Score one for the home team…if you home team happens to be up here on the "last frontier" and runs into some of the most dangerous wilderness situations you will find anywhere on the planet! I've been carrying their "Guides Choice" for approximately 13

The "Just In Case" Kodiak holster is Alaska tough. (Rikk Rambo)

The Colt Kodiak. All business, just like its bruin namesake. (Rikk Rambo)

(JustInCaseHolsters.com) is one of the most well-designed, "easy to get into," and ergonomic chest rigs you will find in today's market. Mr. Sproul took note of other holster's shortcomings, corrected them, and made one TOUGH back country chest rig. The second holster is the legendary Alaska-made Diamond D Leather "Guides Choice." Truth be known, after I first acquired our test-model Kodiak, I repurposed a "Guides Choice" chest rig I purchased several years ago for a Smith and Wesson Performance Center Model 629 V-Comp and the Kodiak fit PERFECTLY. That…is the Alaska-way!

The Colt Kodiak: Tough…Resilient…and Devastatingly Effective at Defending Its Loved Ones…Just Like Its Namesake

The Colt Kodiak that visited us here in the northlands easily proved its capabilities as a backcountry defender to those who carry it. The revolver's finish survived five months of atrocious weather and holster wear with nary a scratch or blemish…not an easy task in both maritime and mountain conditions. More importantly, the Kodiak's ergonomics and accuracy are more than sufficient to convince an incoming nasty, intent on doing you or your loved one's harm, to woefully rethink its career path.

While I was not thrilled with the Kodiak's antiquated, low-visibility iron sights as currently outfitted, as with so many great firearms, it is easily fixed with aftermarket solutions such as those offered by Wilson Combat and Harrison Customs.

Men and women who spend an inordinate amount of time in the bush are some of the best critics you will find on the topic of backcountry defense. With the exception of the Kodiak's sights (which are acceptable…just not cutting-edge), I appreciated EVERYTHING this handgun had to offer… from its ergonomics to its "get the job done" accuracy.

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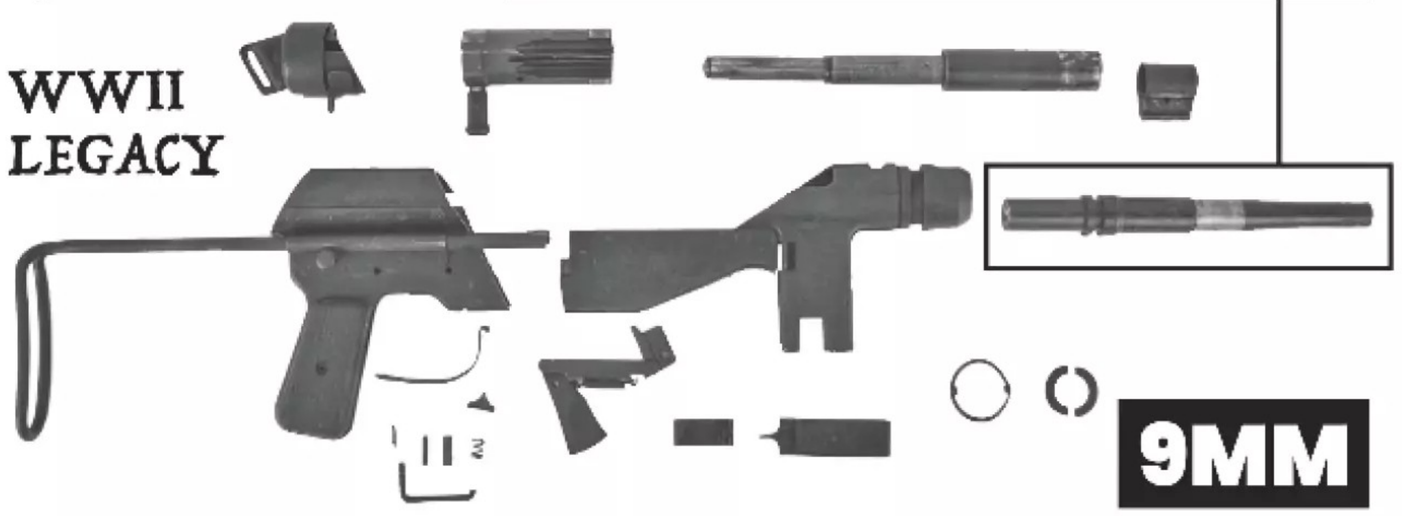

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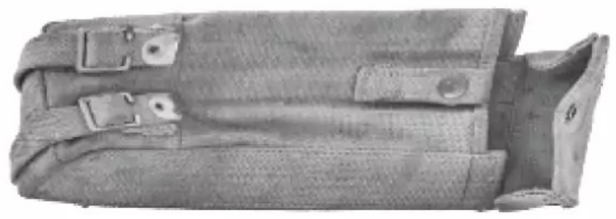

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If you are a hunter, the Spartan Precision Equipment Hoplite Mini Tripod will provide your handgun the support it needs to reach out with accuracy. (Rikk Rambo)

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up to its tough as nails namesake, the Colt Kodiak's three-decade hibernation period is over. The Kodiak will make those deep, dark woods not quite so foreboding, and should any ill-willed predator wish to do you or yours harm, rest easy, because you'll have an "apex predator" of your own in your corner! FN

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Height:	1:10 in.
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Adjustment Value:	1 MOA/Click
MSRP:	$219
Origin of Manufacture:	China (Designed in Torrance, California)
Contact:	(310) 257-8142, Hi-LuxOptics.com

COLT KODIAK REVOLVER SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.44 Remington Magnum
Trigger:	Double Action/Single Action (9.1 and 5.72 lbs. respectively)
Barrel:	4.25 in. (factory-ported)
Action:	Double -action/single-action revolver
Weight:	48.5 oz. (unloaded)
Frame:	410-Series stainless steel
Finish:	Stainless Steel
Cylinder:	Non-fluted
Ammunition Capacity:	6 rounds
Grip:	Hogue over molded rubber with "Colt" emblazoning
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A PRS rifle is grand for competition but would suck as a hunting rifle. The Savage 110 Ultralight Elite, however, shoots like a PRS rifle, and carries like a dream. (Patrick Sweeney)

THE SAVAGE 110 ULTRALIGHT ELITE RIFLE

By Patrick Sweeney

Float Like a Butterfly…

…You know the rest. (If you don't, it's, "… sting like a bee" that describes the punch of Muhammed Ali.) I was at a private range, owned by a Precision Rifle Series (PRS) competitor, when he happened to comment, "*I'm getting kind of tired of hauling fifteen pounds of four-foot rifle around the ranges.*" It was to be expected. The impulse to build to win happens in any competition, and PRS is no exception. So, you have lengthy barrels, stunning optics, and effective suppressors in chassis stocks, because that's what it takes to deliver .25 MOA at zip-code distances. And rifles closing in on twenty pounds, to further dampen recoil. Not what you want for hunting, except for the .25 MOA. So, how do you get as much of the benefits of PRS technology as you can, without needing a wheeled mount to haul it to the hunting blind? Why, that's easy: the Savage 110 Ultralight Elite.

▲ **Right out of the box the Savage 110 Ultralight Elite is well under six pounds and has a beautiful trigger. (Patrick Sweeney)**

► **While the Savage 110 Ultralight Elite is only a right-handed rifle, it still will have appeal to southpaws. (Patrick Sweeney)**

With a hunting scope mounted in lightweight rings, the Savage tips the scales just under seven pounds, ready to go. (Patrick Sweeney)

The 110 Ultralight Elite is a build with an agenda: put in all the accuracy-improving details that competition has taught us but keep the weight down. So, Savage starts with a factory-blueprinted stainless steel 110 action. "Blueprinted"? Okay, in the old days, we'd work from paper drawings of parts. The process to make copies used a blue dye, hence the term "blueprint." A blueprinted action is one that has been given special, extra, work, such that each and every dimension conforms exactly to the blueprint. No "plus or minus" on dimensions. Everything exactly as specified. On the front end, they install a Proof Research stainless steel wrapped-in-carbon fiber barrel. I've had Proof Research install a barrel on an AR-15 for me, and their barrels are achingly accurate. The steel tube of the barrel inside the carbon wrap is what Savage calls the Sendero Lite profile. That is, no extra weight. The muzzle is threaded 5/8x24, for the installation of a flash hider, muzzle brake or suppressor. The features list also mentions an Omnibrake, but I never dug that one out of the box because this was only ever going to have a suppressor on it. In fact it spent its entire time here sporting the new Savage B.O.B. suppressor.

On top of the receiver, Savage installs a 20 MOA Picatinny rail. That is, it slopes down at 20 MOA, which means you gain an extra 20 MOA in elevation in your scope. If you are planning on shooting way out there, you'll need it. If not, you'll never notice it in zeroing for hunting distances. To match the rest of the parts, the receiver gets a black Cerakote finish. The bolt body is machined with a zigzag or diamond pattern, to reduce weight and friction, and then given its own black Cerakote finish.

Then, they install this into an MDT HNT26 chassis. This is a magnesium chassis with carbon fiber extras. The carbon fiber parts being the forend, pistol grip and buttstock, the HNT26 chassis cuts off a lot of weight compared to an all-aluminum chassis. How serious is Savage about paring weight off of the Ultralight? The bolt knob is carbon fiber. The HNT26 chassis is chock full of surprises and extras. The length of pull can be adjusted by means

The MDT pistol grip (also carbon fiber) and the Accutrigger are clearly shown here. Notice the blended-in magazine release as well. (Patrick Sweeney)

The 110 Ultralight Elite comes with a 20 MOA railed base already installed. (Patrick Sweeney)

The muzzle of the Proof Research barrel is threaded for a suppressor. Or other items. (Patrick Sweeney)

How much did Savage work to make it light? The bolt knob is carbon fiber. (Patrick Sweeney)

The magazine release is unlikely to get snagged on anything, and easily worked with your trigger finger. (Patrick Sweeney)

◄ The safety is on the tang, and the bolt also has a cocking indicator in the center of the bolt head. (Patrick Sweeney)

► The Savage 110 Ultralight Elite rewards good technique and makes you look good. (Patrick Sweeney)

The folded stock makes the Savage a lot shorter for transport. (Patrick Sweeney)

The forearm is carbon fiber, it has a built-in Arca rail, and it has M-LOK slots as well as QD sling sockets. (Patrick Sweeney)

The magazine it comes with holds three rounds. Plenty for hunting. If you want to try PRS competition, the Savage uses AICS-pattern magazines. (Patrick Sweeney)

of the four spacers, each ¼" thick you can add if you need to. The comb can be adjusted for height, to get your face directly behind your scope once that optic is mounted. The stock is foam-filled so there's no "clink" or hollow "thunk" if you bang it into something.

The forearm has a built-in Arca rail and a slew of M-LOK slots. Rather than machine an Arca rail and then bolt it on, the Arca rail is an integral part of the forearm. Arca, you ask? Originally it was a quick-attach plate to secure a camera to a tripod. Bolt the Arca plate to the camera, and the Arca-equipped tripod was a quick on-off-on-whatever setup. PRS competitors quickly found out that an Arca plate on their rifle and a sturdy tripod was a primo combination for a quick setup to shoot at the next location in a match. What do the Arca people think about it? Dunno. The forearm, as well as the stock, also has QD sling swivel sockets.

The magnesium center of the chassis has even more extras. The stock is hinged. You press one button to fold it halfway. Then another press of the button to fold it the rest of the way. This makes it compact enough to transport without needing a coffin-sized hard case.

In the center, Savage has the safety in the center of the receiver tang, so despite being a right-handed action, it is readily available for both right and left-handed shooters. However, the real deal here is the trigger, Savage's Accutrigger. The Accutrigger is obvious by the safety lever set into the middle of the trigger face. The big trick is not just that it is a safety lever in the trigger. If all it did was block movement of the trigger, that's what so many others do. No, the Accutrigger blocks the movement of the sear. This means it can be lighter than others, since the sear is blocked from movement, and then, just to put icing on that particular cake, the Accutrigger is user adjustable. Yes, you can adjust to yourself with the safety lever still blocking the sear.

For feeding of ammunition, the MDT HNT26 chassis is set up to use AICS-pattern magazines. This is the single-feed pattern AICS, not the double-feed one, so be sure of that when you go and order more. The 110 Ultralight Elite ships with one three-round magazine (five-rounders readily available), because this is a hunting rifle, and it is intended to be as lightweight as possible. If you want to get into

The bolt is machined with a crisscross pattern and given its own Cerakote finish. (Patrick Sweeney)

The cheekpiece is adjustable so you can get your face right behind the optics. (Patrick Sweeney)

The Proof Research barrel on the Savage tested was chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor. (Patrick Sweeney)

Press the button and you can fold the stock in two steps. (Patrick Sweeney)

PRS-type completion, just source yourself some bigger-capacity AICS magazines, like a 10-rounder, and you'll be all set. The magazine release is smoothly blended into the front of the trigger guard, and is unobtrusive.

Now, the 110 Ultralight Elite does not come with sights. Nothing, nada. So, I had to mount a scope on it. Well, I have a bunch of PRS-level optics, including a Burris XTR Pro. Now, were I building a 20-pound PRS rifle, that would be tops on my list, and I'd put it into a bomb-proof mount. As much as I love it, that combo would add three or four pounds to a rifle that comes out of the box at five-and-three-quarter pounds. Nope, not for a hunting rifle. Instead, I dove into the optics cabinet and come up with a pair of lightweight aluminum rings to clamp directly to the Picatinny rail, and a Burris Fullfield 2.5-10X scope, something much more suitable to hunting than a full-on PRS optic. The rings added 1.6 ounces, the Burris 15.2 ounces.

Now, the Burris is a compact hunting scope, and this presented a bit of a situation. The short tube meant I had very little choice in locating it on the rail. It meant I did not use the length-of-pull spacers, and I could shoot the Savage just fine, but, if you decide to go with this exact combo, you'll have to crawl the stock as I normally do. If you do not, then you'll want to find an offset ring combo that lets you place the scope where it fits you, as long as the front and rear bells don't impact the rail, or just select a scope with a longer tube for more options in placement.

In initial testing, I found the Accutrigger to be all it is praised for. It was so pleasant to not have to struggle through a trigger press. Usually, that means keeping the reticle centered as I felt the various bits and parts of the trigger mechanism interacting, and in some triggers, acting up. Not the Accutrigger. Line up the reticle, take up the slack, and two and a half pounds later a muffled noise produces a new hole in the target.

I did this with the new Savage B.O.B. suppressor mounted, which made the range day all the more pleasant. (See Patrick's column, *In Hushed Tones* in the September 2025 issue of *Firearms News* for a review of this suppressor). The loads selected (okay, grabbed off of the shelf as a representative sample) all shot small groups, groups that would have been smaller had I not been so generous with coffee that morning. Even with the Savage on bags in a shooting rest, and with only 10X power on the Burris, I could see my heartbeat in the movement of the reticle. Still, consistent half-MOA groups under those conditions is stellar for a hunting rifle. It might appear to be a bit "meh" to a pro-level PRS competitor, but a pro-level PRS competitor could likely shave my groups down with the Savage. I do not have an Arca-head tripod or bench setup to use, and that would have also provided some group shrinkage as well.

Keep in mind that this accuracy level was with a hunting rifle that tips the scales, scope and rings

The Savage 110 Ultralight Elite, ready to go out hunting with Burris Fullfield 2.5-10X scope and Savage B.O.B. suppressor installed. (Patrick Sweeney)

The Savage 110 Ultralight Elite liked all the ammo that it tried. (Patrick Sweeney)

Hornady 140-grain A-Max shot so well there's not much need to use anything else. (Patrick Sweeney)

CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA
SAVAGE 110 ULTRALIGHT ELITE

Ammunition	Bullet weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (Avg. & Best) (in.)
Norma BTHP	130	2,747	9	5.1	.55 / .40
Federal Ascent	130	2,784	31	12.0	.6 / .5
Hornady A-Max	140	2,642	48	18.8	.5 / .4
Black Hills ELD-M	140	2,461	33	14.6	.5 / .35

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.

Disassembly for cleaning simply involves removing the bolt so you can swab the bore. (Patrick Sweeney)

SPECIFICATIONS
SAVAGE 110 ULTRALIGHT ELITE RIFLE

Type:	Bolt action
Caliber:	6.5 Creedmoor
Capacity:	3+1 rounds (5- and 10-rd. mags avail.)
Barrel:	18 in. w/ 5/8x24 threaded muzzle
Overall Length:	38 in.
Weight:	5 lbs. 9 oz.
Finish:	Blued steel, Cerakote, carbon fiber
Furniture:	MDT HNT26 Chassis with carbon fiber forend, pistol grip, and buttstock
Sights:	N/A, 20 MOA optics base
Trigger:	2 lbs. 8 oz. as tested (1.5 – 4 lbs. adj.)
MSRP:	$3,299
Contact:	(800) 370-0708, SavageArms.com

included, at six-and-three-quarter pounds. If you are looking for serious accuracy in a package so lightweight that you won't notice it while you are huffing and puffing at high altitude in search of game, then here it is. Now, the starting price is more than a bit higher than you'd expect from your regular hunting rifle. But you have to keep the Savage 110 Ultralight Elite in perspective. You cannot take a regular hunting rifle (whatever that is these days) and rebuild it to be as light as this, without spending this much or more in that pursuit. By the time you've sourced a stock/chassis this light, and re-barreled it to be this light, and pay the cost of the assembly, you'll be at or above the MSRP of the 110 Ultralight Elite. (Don't forget the waiting time of this sourcing and work.) Some PRS shooters spend more than the MSRP of the 110 Ultralight Elite just on their optics. Your rifle will deliver nearly that level of accuracy (more of that depends on you than on the rifle) and it is light enough to hunt with. If you do ever get the idea of giving PRS a go, then you have a lightweight rifle to start your endeavor. You can always add weight just for the match, and take it off later for hunting. As much as I still love blued steel and walnut with the sleek lines of a classic stock, to steal a line from another cultural source, for modern hunting and competition, this is the way. FN

SOURCES

Burris Optics: BurrisOptics.com

Federal Ammunition: FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100

Black Hills Ammunition: Black-Hills.com, (605) 348-5150

Hornady Ammunition: Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220

Norma Ammunition: Norma-Ammunition.com

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Collectors love "lasts" as no collection is complete without the last one. The New Orleans Mint first struck Morgan silver dollars in 1879 and continued until 1904, the last year the Morgan was struck in the "Big Easy". Last-year coins are often hard to find and always in demand, especially when they were struck at the most storied mint in American history, the New Orleans Mint.

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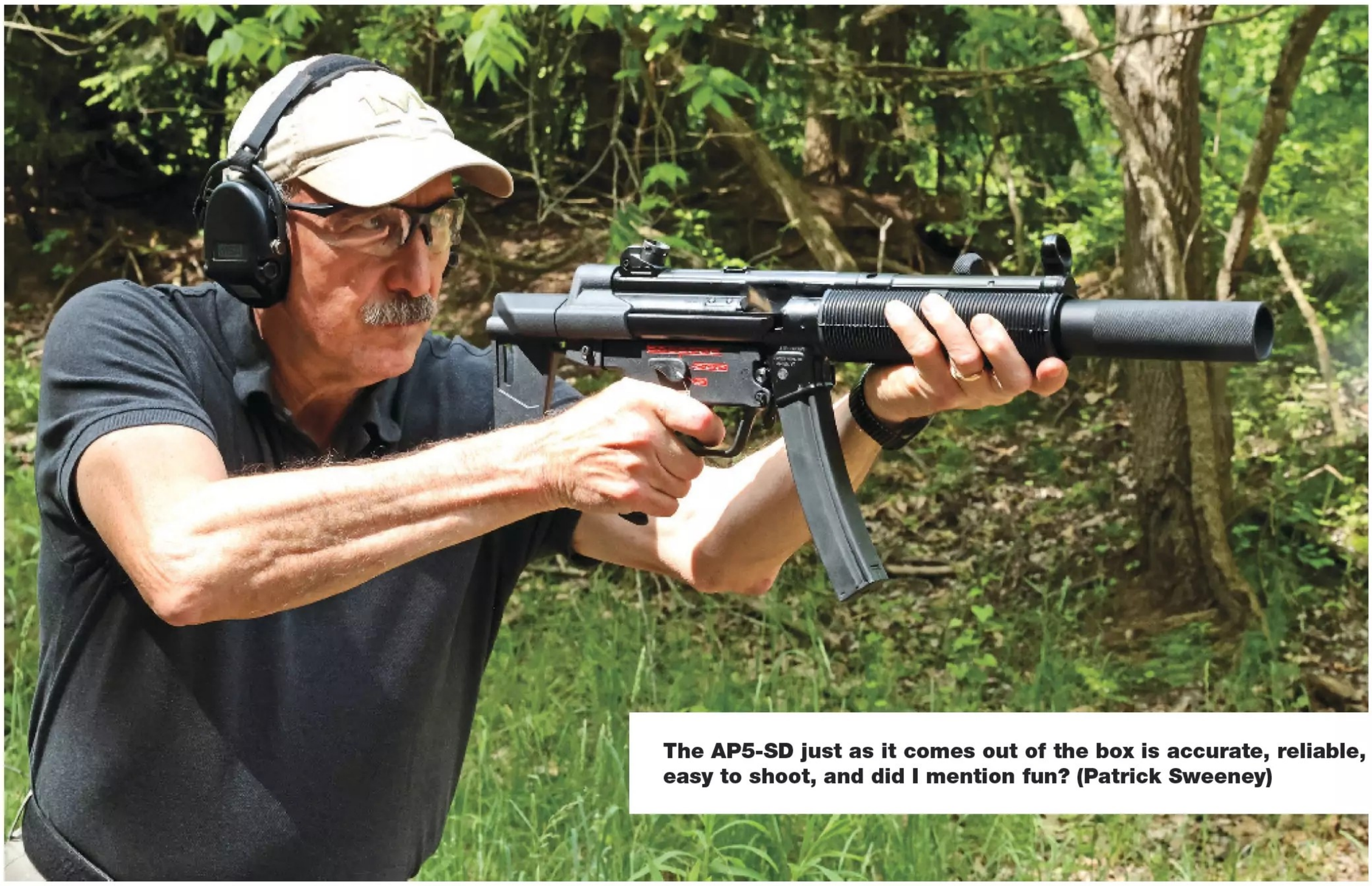


The AP5-SD just as it comes out of the box is accurate, reliable, easy to shoot, and did I mention fun? (Patrick Sweeney)

CENTURY ARMS' AP5-SD

Live the Dream, Don't Break the Bank!

By Patrick Sweeney

I think I have to finally break down and buy an HK-designed firearm. Even before Operation Nimrod, HK firearms were hot items in the US.

The HK91, the semi-auto version of the G3, had been *the* survivalist magazine article rifle of the 1970s, but when the SAS kicked in the windows of the Iranian Embassy in London in 1980, the firearm everyone saw was the MP5, and the HK fans had to have one. We all did. Alas, the price was astronomical, and HK wasn't selling the select-fire ones to us anyway. It wasn't until 1983 that the HK94 appeared, then in 1989 the import door was slammed shut.

MKE is the manufacturer, Century Arms are the importers, and the HK variant in question today is the AP5-SD, a lookalike to the integrally suppressed MP5-SD.

The AP5-SD in its case, with magazines, optic mount, sling, cleaning kit, and replacement rear cap for SAS-style sling use. (Patrick Sweeney)

The trigger pack is made to look like the fabled Navy pack, but it is just safe and semi, alas. (Patrick Sweeney)

The receiver has the HK rail on top, in case you do score a claw mount, there is also the rotating rear aperture sight. (Patrick Sweeney)

◄ The front sight is a post in a hoop. The sling arrangement is pure HK (what else?) so you use the spring-clip attachments on the sling to hook on the loop next to the sight. (Patrick Sweeney)

The Magpul arm brace telescopes on two rails, just like the HK stock does. (Patrick Sweeney)

◄ The rear sight has four apertures, rotate from one to the next for distance. (Patrick Sweeney)

Just like the originals, the model designation and the serial number are on the top rail of the receiver. (Patrick Sweeney)

While the West German government was being a pain in the neck about exporting to the US (and the US was being an equal pain in the neck about imports), the Germans were licensing the HK designs overseas. So, that's how we can now own HK firearms at not-nosebleed prices, from Turkey. One could say reasonable prices, considering what inflation has done to firearms prices in the decades since Bush the Elder turned his back on us in 1989.

Curiously, there are still some who are a bit leery of Turkish firearms. I'm not, because I've had several occasions to sit and talk with the engineers and management of Turkish firearms makers. They are interested in making firearms we're eager to buy, and not in producing junk. Plus, HK licensed the manufacture of their firearms to the Turkish factories, and failing to meet Germans quality standards would get the license yanked.

The AP5-SD is a faithful facsimile of the "SD" part of the original, the suppressor part, and the rest of it is not just faithful, not just a clone, it is the real deal. Well, it is semi-auto, of course, but it is all real HK-spec'd 9mm pistol of an MP5. So, the receiver is a heavy gauge steel stamping, wrapped around a steel trunnion that holds the roller lock recesses and the barrel. The receiver has the HK claw mount bosses on the top rib of the receiver, and the cocking knob sits out front on the left side, for your retraction and then slapping to charge the chamber. The sights are HK all the way. The front is the hoop and post, and the rear is the rotating cylinder with four apertures for various distances. Aiming is simple: look through the

The clip on the side has several uses. One is to corral the sling in storage. The other is to fit it to a special rack in storage. It is authentic, even if it is not of much use to us. (Patrick Sweeney)

The magazine catch can be worked with either the button on the right side, or the paddle behind the magazine well. (Patrick Sweeney)

◄ If you want to rock things SAS-style, replace the brace with a rear cap, install a sling, and get practicing. (Patrick Sweeney)

► The AP5-SD comes with a pair of 30-round magazines, authentic HK-licensed and working like champs. (Patrick Sweeney)

aperture and place the tip of the post in the center. If the hoop of the front sight causes the aperture to appear oval in any way, you are not centered.

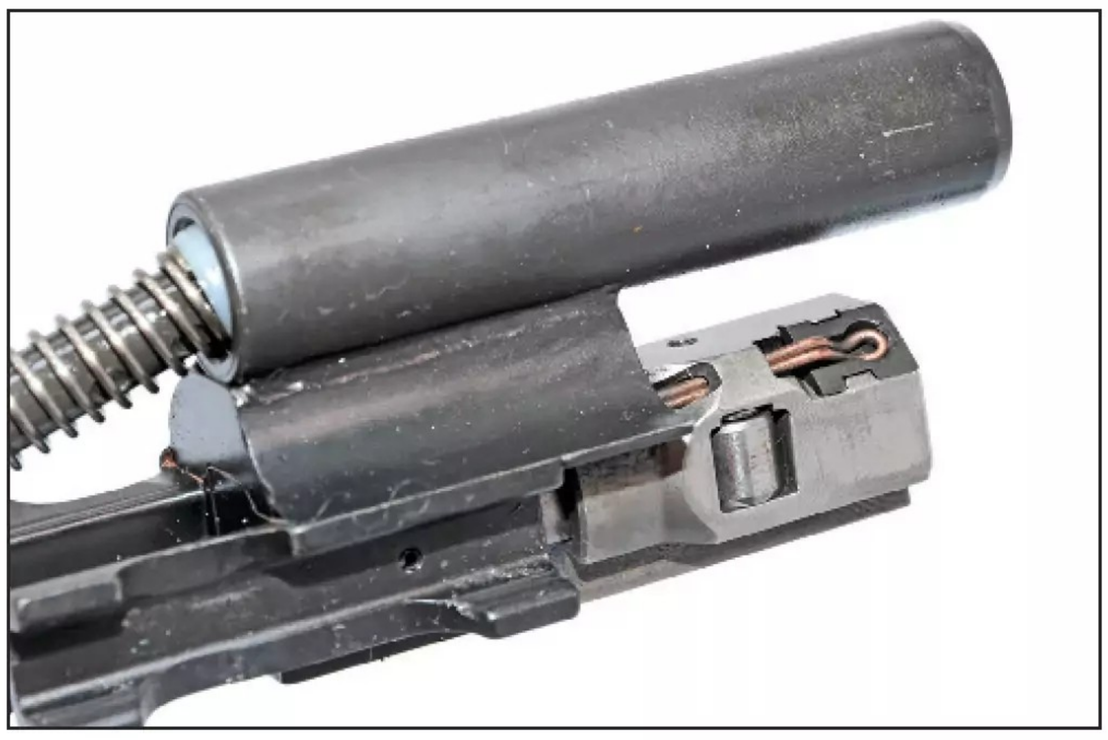
The receiver has the magazine well as an integral part of the stamped and welded shell. This is the receiver, and it is where the serial number is located, not the lower. The magazine well offers both methods of magazine change. There is the expected paddle behind the magazine, and there is a button on the right side. This is the first of the iconic HK "gestures" or methods of manipulation to mention, where the button is too far forward to be used by a normal human being. (Don't blame me, don't blame the Turks, blame the West German Army.) You change magazines by choking the magazine with your off hand, squeezing the mag paddle with the web of your hand. Then pull the magazine out. Oh, Century Arms sends the AP5-SD out the door with two 30-round magazines. If you want more, they have them at $70 each, which is less, even after inflation, than we would have paid for the HK originals back in the 1980s. (Yes, they were that expensive.)

To fire the AP5-SD, you move the safety/selector from the white outline of a bullet in a box with an "X" through it to the one-bullet box. Yes, you are looking at the clone of the fabled "Navy" fire control pack and its markings. The originals offered safe, semi-auto, three-round-burst and full-auto as options. Alas, we just have semi, but a very cool semi-auto, as the AP5-SD uses the dual push-pin design to assemble the trigger housing. The HK94 semi-auto carbine had the receiver modified, and the dual push pin pack could not be installed on those. Here is the second legacy HK detail: the safety lever is too far forward for human thumbs. You will have to get used to moving

If you want to mount a red-dot or other optic, then use the Century Arms-included pic rail. (Patrick Sweeney)

The AP5-SD disassembled. You don't have to take the faux suppressor, or the polymer hand cover off to clean the pistol. But they can be removed and re-installed. (Patrick Sweeney)

◄ The forearm is slotted for weight, and it allows a view of the barrel, which is shorter than the forearm. (Patrick Sweeney)

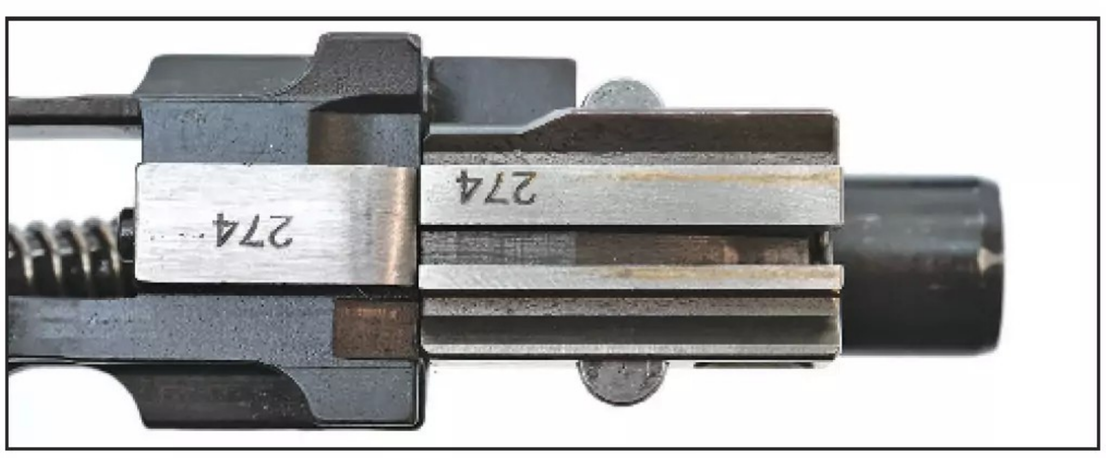


The bolt and carrier come out of the receiver as an assembled unit. No need to take them apart, scrub and lube and re-install and you're done. (Patrick Sweeney)

your hand to work the lever. This is legacy, and original, so get used to it.

On the back of the receiver, Century Arms has installed a Magpul MB BSL brace. If, however, you want to shoot your AP5-SD SAS style, push out the rear pin and pull off the brace. Then slide on the provided rear cap with loop on it. Install a sling and make it just the right length that when you push the AP5-SD out in front of you, it pulls taut just before full extension. That's how the SAS trained to shoot the MP5 with gas masks on.

The big deal with the AP5-SD is the handguard. MKE cleanly welds a handguard shell to the receiver, and then slips a ribbed polymer cover onto the shell. This acts as the covering to the integral suppressor that the SD would otherwise have. Inside, there is a hammer-forged barrel that is 5.75-inches long, so it does not even come close to



The rollers on the side of the bolt get cammed into recesses in the receiver. That locks the bolt in the receiver. (Patrick Sweeney)

The AP5-SD is a licensed HK semi-auto version of the fabled MP5-SD. (Patrick Sweeney)

Authentic in all respects except not select-fire and not integrally suppressed, the AP5-SD is cool, fun and a bargain. (Patrick Sweeney)

reaching out to the end of the handguard. The barrel is threaded at the muzzle (1/2x28) and MKE then screws on a hollow aluminum tube to simulate the SD suppressor.

Okay, a quick refresher for those who have been too immersed in AR-15s of late. The HK system is a delayed blowback, using rollers that wedge into recesses in the receiver. When you fire a round, the bolt thrust works (at great a disadvantage of leverage) to squeeze the rollers out of the recesses and hurl the bolt, bolt carrier and guide rod back. Since there is no rotating bolt, the HK system lacks what is known as

Install a suppressor, like the Gemtech Lunar 9, and the AP5-SD enters giggle-worthy territory. (Patrick Sweeney)

The sling is also HK. Clips used to attach the sling to the loops on the pistol. Love it or hate it, it is authentic. (Patrick Sweeney)

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The HK-correct cleaning kit is compact by means of being a pull-through with a cord, not a set of rods. (Patrick Sweeney)

primary extraction. To make sure the case isn't soldered to the chamber walls when fired (and thus unwilling to be extracted), the hammer-forged barrel has the chamber fluted. The flutes allow combustion gases to flow back between the case and the chamber walls, "floating" the case to reduce friction during extraction. You can see the results on the fired cases once they are ejected.

There's no gas system, no piston, no locking lugs on a bolt to keep clean or check for cracks. As long as the rollers can move in and out, the system works. It is remarkably unconcerned about powder type, burning rate, residues, etc. I suspect you could keep an HK 9mm running if you had to reload 9mm cases with match heads and black powder. (Probably one of the reasons the HK system was viewed so favorably back in the survivalist days)

Disassembly is easy. Unload and close the bolt. Push out the two action pins, pull the trigger pack down out of the receiver. Then grab the recoil spring assembly and pull the whole assembly out of the receiver. That's it. No, you don't need to remove the bolt from the carrier, and if you try you will need an assistant to reassemble the bolt and carrier, so don't.

Operation is easy. Safety on. Load the magazine. From here, you have two paths. One, insert the magazine and lock it in place. Grab the cocking knob, pull all the way back and then release. The other path is stylish and HK-iconic. Grab the cocking knob, pull it back and then turn it up unto its locking notch. Insert the magazine. Now reach up and slap the knob, to release it and let it crash home. Fire until the AP5-SD goes click. That's the last of the HK iconic details: it will not lock open after the last shot.

Testing was exactly as expected, HK, and the licensed manufacturer, MKE, knows how to make an accurate barrel. The original specs on trigger pull have been faithfully maintained. The original specs for the G3 called for a loaded, safety-off rifle to survive a drop of 25 meters onto a grassy surface and not discharge. So, the AP5-SD has the HK-correct trigger pull of just over seven pounds. This,

It didn't matter what ammo the AP5-SD was using, it all fed, shot accurately, and hit to the sights. (Patrick Sweeney)

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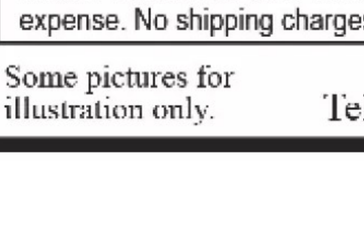

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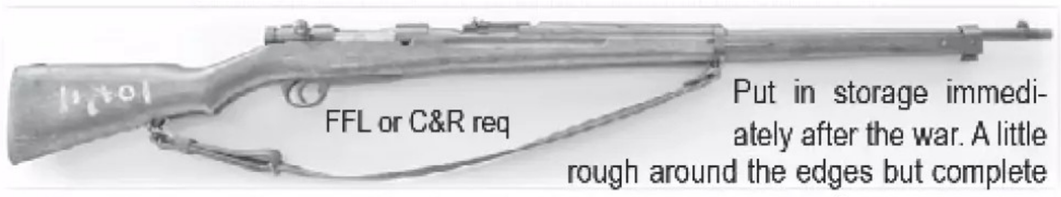

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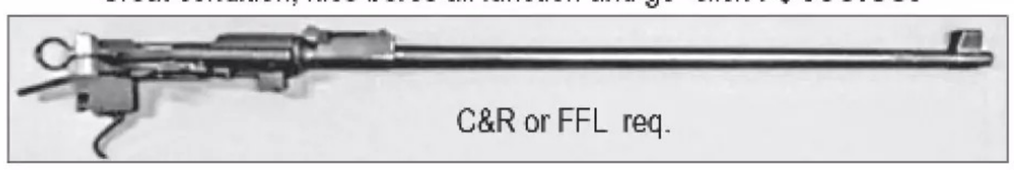

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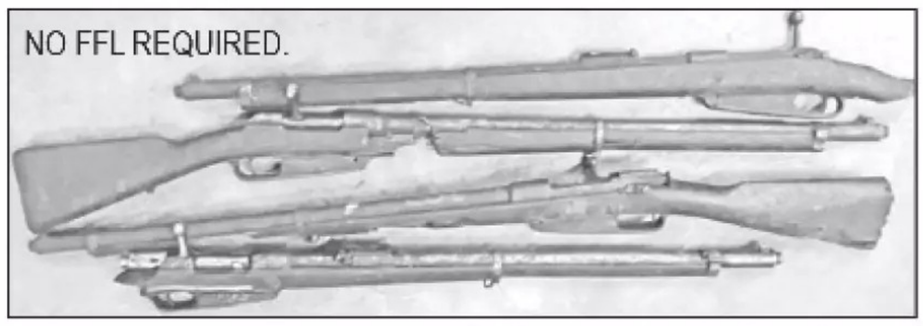

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Hornady delivered its usual stellar accuracy. (Patrick Sweeney)

Clearly Wilson Combat knows how to craft accurate ammunition. And the AP5-SD loves it. (Patrick Sweeney)

If your choice is an all-copper JHP, then the Norma load will be tops of the list. (Patrick Sweeney)

CENTURY ARMS AP5-SD CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA

Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (Avg. & Best) (in.)
Norma MHP	115	1,236	38	16.6	1.1 / 1
Wilson TAC-XTP	115	1,119	6	2.1	1 / 0.8
W-W Silvertip	115	1,285	38	19.9	1.3 / 1.1
Hornady XTP	124	1,171	70	30.4	0.9 / 0.7

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 25 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.

however, is not a hindrance to accurate shooting, as the test targets demonstrated. The barrel length did not add much velocity to the loads, over what we'd see from a pistol, but that is not why you get a firearm like the AP5-SD.

And that leads us to the "SD" part of things. In addition to the pistol and its magazines, Century adds in a Picatinny rail optic mount so you can install a red-dot sight on your AP5-SD. Without that, the only optics mount choice is the HK claw mount, which last I checked was fearsomely expensive (although, there is a knockoff). Century Arms makes it easy. Also, the muzzle is threaded ½-28, so if you simply unscrew the faux suppressor, you can install a real one. Or, you can use the three-lug mount Century/MKE has installed on the barrel behind the threads. So that's what I did. I used the Gemtech Lunar 9, and tried it with just threading it on, and then replaced the direct-thread rear for the three-lug rear in the Lunar 9 and had even more fun at the range. As a pistol configuration with brace, it wasn't quite the same outline and appearance as the original SD, but it was fun, it was quiet, and it was all-parts-in, a tenth of the price of an actual SD.

I first shot an MP5 in 1984, as I recall. Since then, I've shot lots of them in all configurations, including the HK94, the various G3s (even the belt-fed HK21A) but I've never owned one. I suspect that will change soon. Then the next episode of the journey will be: leave it as-is, or "correct" the HK iconic details like the safety lever even my thumbs can't reach? I guess we'll find out. What we do know is that you can have an HK-approved and properly built 9mm pistol (and some of you can even SBR it) for less cost than we would have believed in the old days. What are you waiting for? FN

SPECIFICATIONS CENTURY ARMS AP5-SD

Type:	Hammer-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	30+1 rounds (or any MP5-type magazine)
Barrel:	5.75 in.
Overall Length:	30 in.
Weight:	6 lbs. 11 oz.
Finish:	Black
Grips:	Polymer
Sights:	Fixed front, adjustable rear
Trigger:	7 lbs. 7 oz.
MSRP:	$1,700
Contact:	CenturyArms.com, (561) 908-7993

SOURCES

Hornady Manufacturing: Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220

Norma: NormaUSA.com, (912) 800-9332

Winchester Ammunition: Winchester.com

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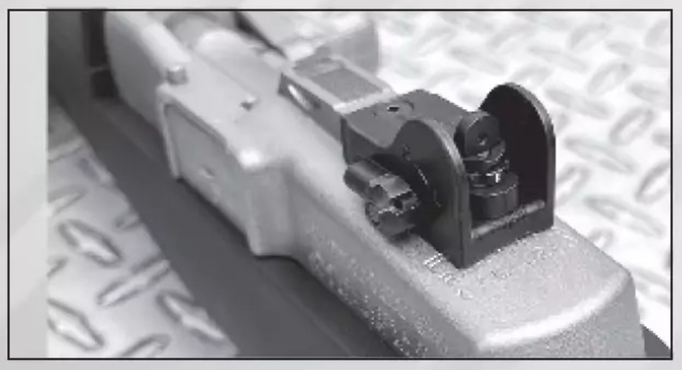

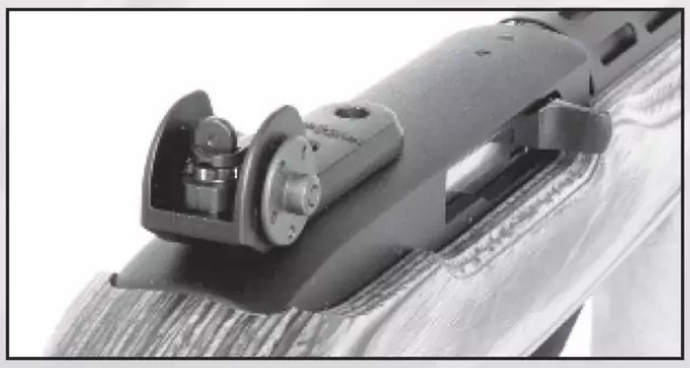

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This is the best time in all of American history to buy a shotgun. Have you seen the prices on these rascals? If current market trends continue, manufacturers may soon be paying us to take them. Nowadays, there are some truly extraordinary, imported scatterguns available for not a lot of money. The new Panzer Arms G3 12-gauge is the archetype. This thing seriously amps up the cool points while remaining just scary cheap.

My first taste of these nifty new Turkish shotguns from Panzer Arms was their M4 model. The Benelli M4 is the apex predator among modern autoloading fighting scatterguns. The US Marine Corps uses them for real downrange. However, with an MSRP of around two grand, this rarefied smoke pole borders upon unobtanium. Then, I bumped into the Panzer Arms M4, which is a beautifully executed Turkish-made copy of the original Benelli gun. And now, Panzer Arms brings us the new G3 12-gauge.

Details

The Panzer G3 is the arithmetic mean between the M4 shotgun and the HK G3 battle rifle. The beating heart is a reliable gas-operated 12-gauge action nestled inside a

The G3 Twelve runs like a sports car with spunky ammo. (Will Dabbs, MD)

THE PANZER ARMS G3 12-GAUGE SHOTGUN

Dirt Cheap, Crazy Cool

By Will Dabbs, MD

rugged G3 chassis. The weapon comes with two five-round box magazines and sports some superlative ergonomics. Unlike the original G3 that is built around a pressed steel receiver, that of the G3 12-gauge is aluminum.

The morphology will seem familiar to anyone who has ever hefted a roller-locked HK. The bore axis is low, the controls are otherwise identical, and the charging handle is up front on the left for easy access. However, unlike the cumbersome pivoting appendage of the full-size G3, the charging handle on the G3 12-gauge is a simple MP5-style knob. Manipulation is breezy as a result.

The fixed polymer stock sports a generous rubber buttpad. The furniture is green, aping that of the original GI battle rifles. The front sight is a fixed hooded post. The rear sight is the classic HK diopter drum. Sling attachment points for an HK-style sling are located on the left side.

The magazine release is a right-sided pushbutton. The muzzle is threaded for Benelli/Beretta-standard chokes. The gun comes with two as well as a G3-style flash suppressor that uses the same internal threads. The safety is a simple thumb lever mounted on the left side of the fire control group. The “S” and “F” are marked in bright white and red

The new Panzer Arms G3 12-gauge is a radically different shotgun. It is also almost unnaturally inexpensive. (Will Dabbs, MD)

Here we have a 1980's-vintage HK91 (top) alongside the new Panzer Arms G3 12-gauge. The common parentage is obvious. (Will Dabbs, MD)

paint that smeared a bit the first time I cleaned the gun aggressively.

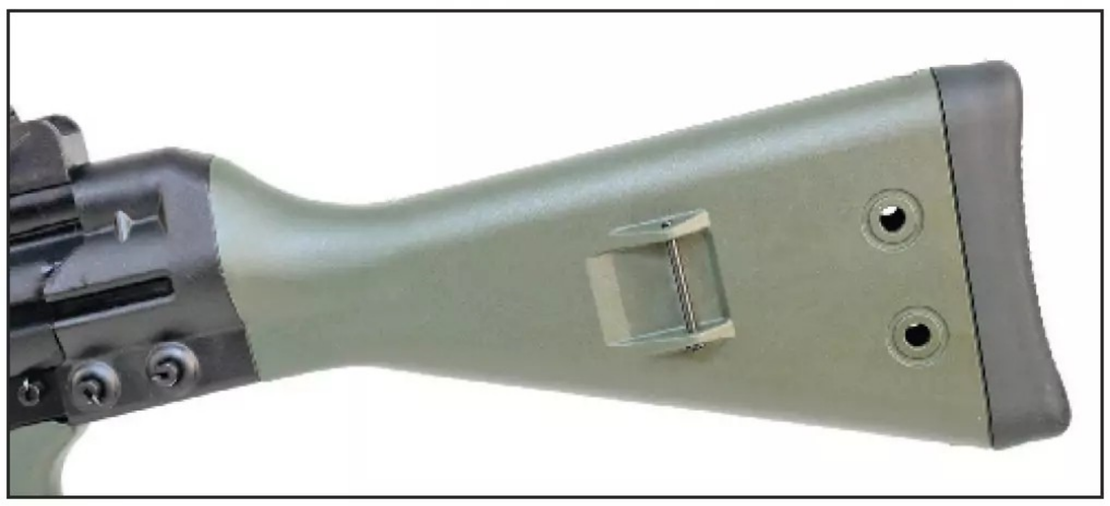
The gun comes with a nifty optics rail that secures to the top of the aluminum receiver via hex screws. The wrench is included, and installation takes five minutes or less. This lets you mount up your favorite optical sight should the spirit lead.

Trigger Time

The manual of arms for the G3 Twelve is identical to that of any roller-delayed HK gun. Lock the bolt to the rear using the left-sided charging handle and seat a loaded magazine. Then slap the charging handle down over a live round. The bolt does not lock to the rear on the last shot fired. That will cost you a microsecond or two on tactical reloads compared to an AR-15 rifle. However, that is more than offset by the extra cool points you accrue slapping that Bad Boy into battery.

Despite its bulk, the G3 Twelve does not seem terribly heavy. The end result is a surprisingly comfortable 12-bore. The gun cycled high brass anything without a hiccup. Like most magazine-fed autoloading scatterguns, cheap low-brass birdshot has got just barely enough horsepower to cycle the action. That equated out to a stoppage about once per mag at first. That got better as we got the gun broken in. Recoil is obviously more vigorous than that of a 5.56mm AR, but it's not bad at all for a 12-gauge.

The receiver of the G3 12-gauge is machined out of aluminum. (Will Dabbs, MD)



The buttstock is classic G3 all the way down to the holes to help keep track of the pushpins during servicing. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The charging handle is identical to that of the MP5 submachine gun. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The sights on the G3 12-gauge mimic those of the original HK service rifle. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The G3 12-gauge comes with two chokes, and this oversized replica flash suppressor. (Will Dabbs, MD)

Maintenance

As the G3 Twelve is magazine-fed, its action has a bit more cumulative friction than that of the tube-fed M4. That extra bit of stickiness is what sometimes keeps the top round in a magazine full of birdshot from fully cycling the action. High-brass Number Fives, 00 buck, and slugs ran flawlessly.

It was an eye-opening experience taking this thing apart. This is not an AR-15 or an FN SCAR where all the little parts are retained and everything is stupid-proof. The G3 Twelve is not designed to be maintained in a foxhole. Fortunately, precious few folks reading these words will ever be expected to live in a foxhole.

The manual does a good job of explaining the stripping protocol, and the gun comes with the requisite wrenches and tools. However, once you're done you do have a fairly prodigious pile of tiny little parts. I pulled up some cool sci-fi combat on the TV and settled in over my old beater coffee table. Stripping the gun completely took me nearly half an hour. Reassembly was maybe half that. I wouldn't routinely take this weapon completely apart.

Tragically, the G3 Twelve is not compatible with original HK fire control groups. That dashes any aspirations you might have had of easily converting the gun to full auto should you have one of those insanely expensive HK sears or trigger packs lying about. I'm told that HK sliding stocks will

The G3 Twelve is a different sort of scattergun. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The G3 Twelve runs just like an HK G3 battle rifle only bigger. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The G3 Twelve would fail to cycle fully about 15% of the time with low-brass birdshot like the two shells on the left. High-brass fodder like the slugs and buckshot on the right ran like poop through a goose. The action loosened up over time. (Will Dabbs, MD)

fit if you have one that doesn't have the recoil spring guide rod rigidly affixed.

I mounted up a Trijicon MRO red dot and pivoting magnifier. Trijicon is the top of the heap in tactical optics. The MRO is as good as it gets in the world of ruggedized red dots. With the magnifier handy, this setup covers the entire range spectrum for this weapon. Expect a single gaping hole firing slugs at typical CQB ranges.

Practicalities

So, what do you use something like this for? Well, it looks plenty cool just sitting in the safe. I am genuinely impressed with the design, and my G3 Twelve is indeed quite nicely executed.

The rear sling mount does seem a bit flimsy. I wouldn't hang from that thing were I forced to abseil down an

A LESSON ON SHOTGUN BORES

The 12-gauge is the most popular shotgun shell in the world. The gauge system of bore measurement in firearms was first referenced in the 1677 tome *A Light to the Art of Gunnery.* Since then, this system has been formalized.

The gauge of a shotgun refers to the number of pure lead balls that will fit down the bore that sum to a pound. A 12-gauge pure lead ball would therefore weigh one twelfth of a pound. 10, 16, 20, and 28-gauge shotguns use the same system. For reasons I have never understood, the .410 is a true English measurement. If we measured the .410 shotgun on the gauge scale it would be a 67.5 gauge.

The gauge system spawned from the English bore measurements for military cannons, though these designations use iron rather than lead for their standard medium. An eight-pounder would fire an eight-pound iron ball. This system was used on English guns throughout World War II. The main gun on the Sherman Firefly tank was called a 17-pounder. This gun sported a bore diameter of 76.2mm, the diameter of 17-pound pure iron ball.

That's the theory. In reality, shotgun bores are often not uniform throughout. The portion of the bore closest to the chamber defines the forcing cone. The farthest component of the barrel forms the choke. These chokes are often interchangeable as is the case with the G3 Twelve. Over-bored barrels are intentionally cut slightly oversized between the forcing cone and the choke. This tends to improve patterning and mitigate felt recoil.

The true diameter of the 12-gauge shotgun is .729 inches or 18.53 mm. Most lead 12-gauge slugs weigh one ounce. That's obviously one sixteenth of a pound or 437.5 grains. Standard velocity 12-gauge slugs move at about 1,500 feet per second. To put that in perspective, the typical .44 Magnum bullet has about the same velocity while weighing about half as much. FN

This is the Panzer Arms G3 Twelve fully disassembled. You don't want to be doing this in a foxhole someplace. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The Trijicon MRO and corresponding pivoting magnifier maximize the performance of the G3 Twelve. (Will Dabbs, MD)

elevator shaft like John McClean in *Die Hard*. However, I would be completely comfortable counting on this gun for important stuff so long as it was charged with spunky ammo. Any proper home defensive arm will likely be fed high-brass buckshot or slugs anyway.

Some parts are polymer that could have been aluminum or steel. As a result, the G3 Twelve wouldn't be my first choice to pack downrange should I be called upon to HALO into the Hindu Kush to rescue the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. However, news flash, I will never be called upon to do that. Neither will you. Out here in the real world, an autoloading shotgun is used for

Like any decent scattergun, at typical 12-meter CQB ranges this thing will rip a target to shreds. (Will Dabbs, MD)

The G3 Twelve shoots plenty straight. At typical CQB distances it becomes an unstoppable force. (Will Dabbs, MD)

recreation, hunting, competition, or home defense. With appropriate shells, the G3 Twelve is fully capable of any of that.

So, here's the shocking bit. The MSRP for this gun is…wait for it…$349.99. Um, yeah. That is an absolute steal. I have no idea how they pulled that off, but this is a whole lot of gun for the money.

The same human engineering that made the G3 one of the most popular battle rifles on Planet Earth still plays here. Magazine changes are smooth and quick, while the gun points both easily and well. It's also quite well made. Additionally, in the timeless annals of caliber versus downrange thump, nobody packing a twelve bore will ever be falsely accused of having brought too little gun.

The Panzer Arms G3 Twelve is an undeniably cool-looking smoke pole. (Will Dabbs, MD)

Ruminations

As I said at the beginning, this is the best time in all of human history to buy a shotgun. These Turkish-built scatterguns are well-made, ergonomic, clever, and just stupid cheap. As I pawed over all the little bits and pieces that made up this weapon, I was amazed they could sell it for this price.

If you're just starting out and money is tight—and we have all been there—this is a great defensive tool that will leave a little left over for rent and diapers. If your collection is already robust, then you can add some serious flavor for half the price of even a bargain basement AR. The Panzer Arms G3 Twelve is an awful lot of cool for not a lot of cash. FN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
PANZER ARMS G3 TWELVE

Type:	Gas-Operated Magazine-Fed Semiautomatic
Caliber:	12-gauge
Barrel:	18.5 in.
Overall Length:	41 in.
Weight:	9.2 lbs.
Finish:	Black Anodized
Sights:	Flip Diopter/Front Post
MSRP:	$349.99
Contact:	PanzerArmsUSA.com

SOURCES

Panzer Arms: PanzerArmsUSA.com, (724) 727-2847

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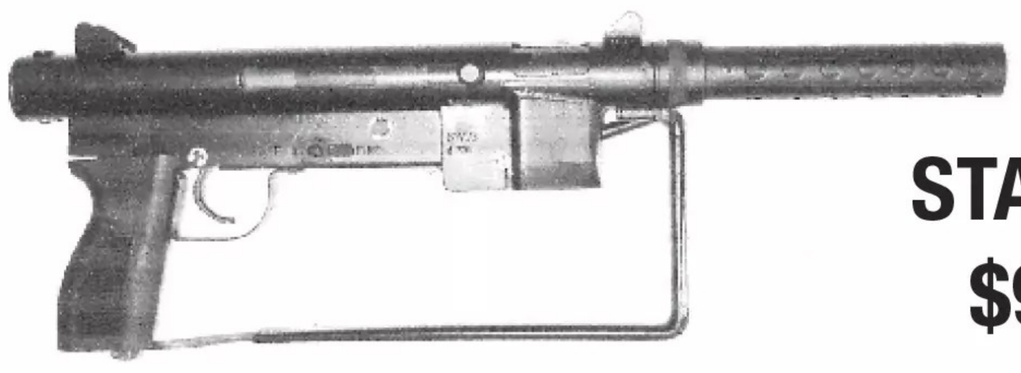

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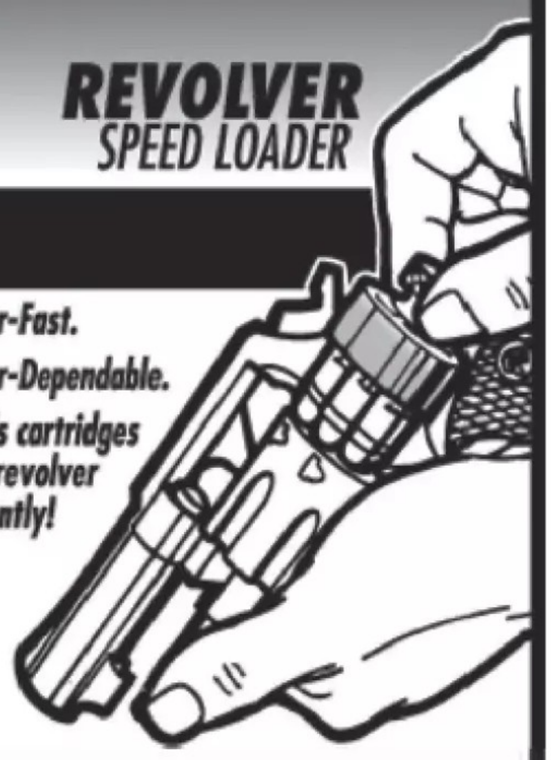

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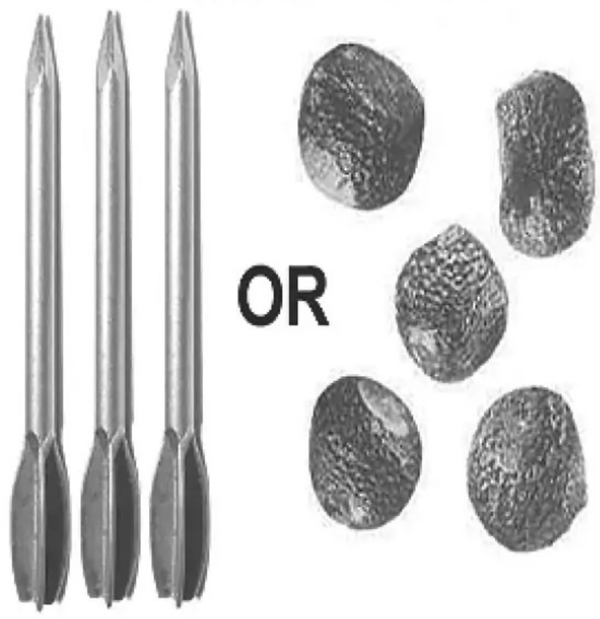

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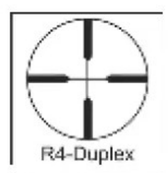
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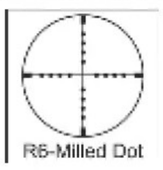
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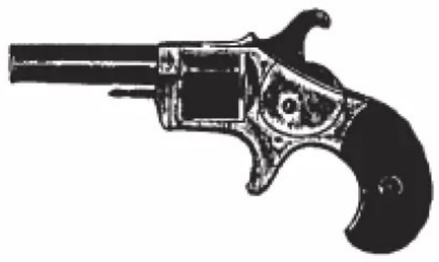
DAILY ADMISSION $12.00 PER PERSON
Children under 12 free - Must be accompanied by Adult • Senior Citizens $10.00

Show Manager:
Marc Loveland
Marc@nyssassociation.com



PLEASE NOTE:
UPCOMING SHOWS DATES

Syracuse, NY
APRIL 18-19, 2026

Eight Foot Tables - $75.00 Each (Members),
$85.00 Each (Non-Members)
Exhibitors only may set up 4:00 - 8:00 P.M. Friday Night;
8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Saturday

DEALERS MUST HAVE VALID N.Y.S. SALES TAX NUMBER.
GUARDS ON DUTY 24 HOURS DAILY.
FOOD AVAILABLE AT SHOW — PLENTY OF FREE PARKING.

All Firearm Laws WILL Be Observed.
All cartridge guns entering, within, or leaving the show must be tied in such a way that they cannot be loaded!

New York State law requires that a National Instant Background Check must be completed prior to all firearm sales or transfers, including sales or transfers of rifles or shotguns. The sale or transfer of a firearm, rifle or shotgun at a Gun Show without first conducting a Background Check is a crime. It is also a crime to offer or agree to sell a firearm, rifle or shotgun at a Gun Show and then transfer it at another location for the purpose of avoiding a National Instant Criminal Background check.

Sellers of all modern firearms must provide a gun locking device suitable for said firearm, with written instructions, at time of sale.

PAYMENT AND SIGNED CONTRACT MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATION
PAYABLE TO: New York State Sportsmen Association, LLC.
SEND TO: Marc Loveland, 564 Leon Drive, Endicott, N.Y. 13760

PHONE: (607) 223-8486
1:00 - 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS

HOW TO BECOME A Rifleman:

Everything you need to start on your journey to becoming a rifleman – skilled in the use of a rifle. Traditionally, a rifleman has the skill to nail a target out to 500 yards, the "Rifleman's Quarter-Mile". Learn to fire an accurate shot at 25 meters (82 feet) and save all the walking, then add your knowledge of the Rifleman's Trajectory to be able to fire that shot and hit the target at 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards. Fred's Simplified Wind Rule will help you handle what otherwise befuddles most shooters. Please note ***shipping is prepaid*** on everything to the lower 48, and that our **minimum order is $75.**

Fred's "Guide to Becoming a Rifleman" — with targets! **$42**

25M Army Qualification Test (AQT) Targets, Ten Sets w/ Guide ..... **$33**, 2/**$55**

The 100-yard AQT Target, use at 25 meters, 100 yards, 200 yards..... bundle of 100 **$21**

How far off are you effective with your rifle? **Redcoat Target Set** (100 targets) **$19**

The "Quick 'n Dirty" (QD) AQT (equals 50 AQTs!) ..... Qty of 50 **$20**, 5/**$82**

M14 Repack Kits (bandoleers/cardboards, stripper clips, mag fillers) ..... Lot of 10 **$105**

M14 Rifle: Preventive Maintenance. Vietnam issue! **$5**

M14 Operator/Org Maintenance/Repair Parts & Special Tools Manual **$4**

Match Condition Procedures — Rifle, M14 ..... **$5**

Original **US GI WWII Web Slings**! VG - Excellent ..... **$40**, 3 for **$100!**

Patriots, or how to survive the coming collapse, by Rawles (autographed!) **$22**

Boston's Gun Bible — Which is the best battle rifle? Find the answer!! 500 + pages! **$25**

Fred's SGN Columns — From back in the old days! **$15**

US GI Bandoleer, M60 Machinegun, holds 100 rds .308 ..... **$3.50**, 100/**$125**

US GI mint issued M1 Garand 8rd clips, Quantity of 10 ..... **$50** *Limited Quantity!*

M1 Carbine Repack, Late-Style Strippers + Mag Filler, Cards ..... **$18.50**, 10/**$135**

M1 Carbine Repack, Early-Style Strippers +w/Mag Fillers, Cards ..... **$21.50**, 10/**$145**

M16 10-rd Stripper Clips, US GI, unissued ..... 100 for **$14!**

AK/SKS Stripper Clips, Incredibly US GI made! ..... **$6**, Qty of Ten! **$35**

M1 Garand Op Rod Spring ..... 3 for **$15!**

M1 Carbine Stripper Clips w/attached mag filler ..... 10/**$9**, 100/**$85**

"Battlin the UN", Fred's favorite Story **$5**

Most of the above are unissued/mint. Shop more at fredsm14stocks.com

Ask about our US GI M14E2 stocks with all the US GI metal!

fredsm14stocks.com — 336.465.8178

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