

FIREARMS NEWS[®]

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 2024

MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION'S

MAC-5

THE MP5-TYPE FIREARM YOU CAN
EASILY OWN AND FOR LESS!

REVIEWED BY VINCENT DENIRO WITH AMMO
FROM BLACK HILLS, FEDERAL, AND HORNADY,
PLUS A LOOK AT ACCESSORIES FROM
AIMPOINT, ETS, GEMTECH, MAGPUL,
MIDWEST INDUSTRIES,
SCALARWORKS,
SB TACTICAL,
SUREFIRE,
AND MORE!

■ CARRYING CONCEALED

THE EVOLUTION OF
THE AIMPOINT ACRO

■ IN HUSHED TONES

GEMTECH'S GM-9
— GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

■ MUSINGS FROM THE AMMO BUNKER

.303 BRITISH: SHOULD
YOU CONSIDER IT TODAY?

■ THE WAR GUNS

VETTERLI RIFLES:
SWISS ENGINEERING,
ITALIAN FLAIR

■ NEWSSTAND

PLENTY OF 2ND AMENDMENT NEWS!

SMITH & WESSON PERFORMANCE CENTER'S

CARRY COMP SHIELD
PLUS PISTOL

LWRCI'S 350 LEGEND

AN AR-TYPE RIFLE READY
FOR DEER SEASON!

THE BERETTA PM-12

SUBMACHINE GUN SERIES

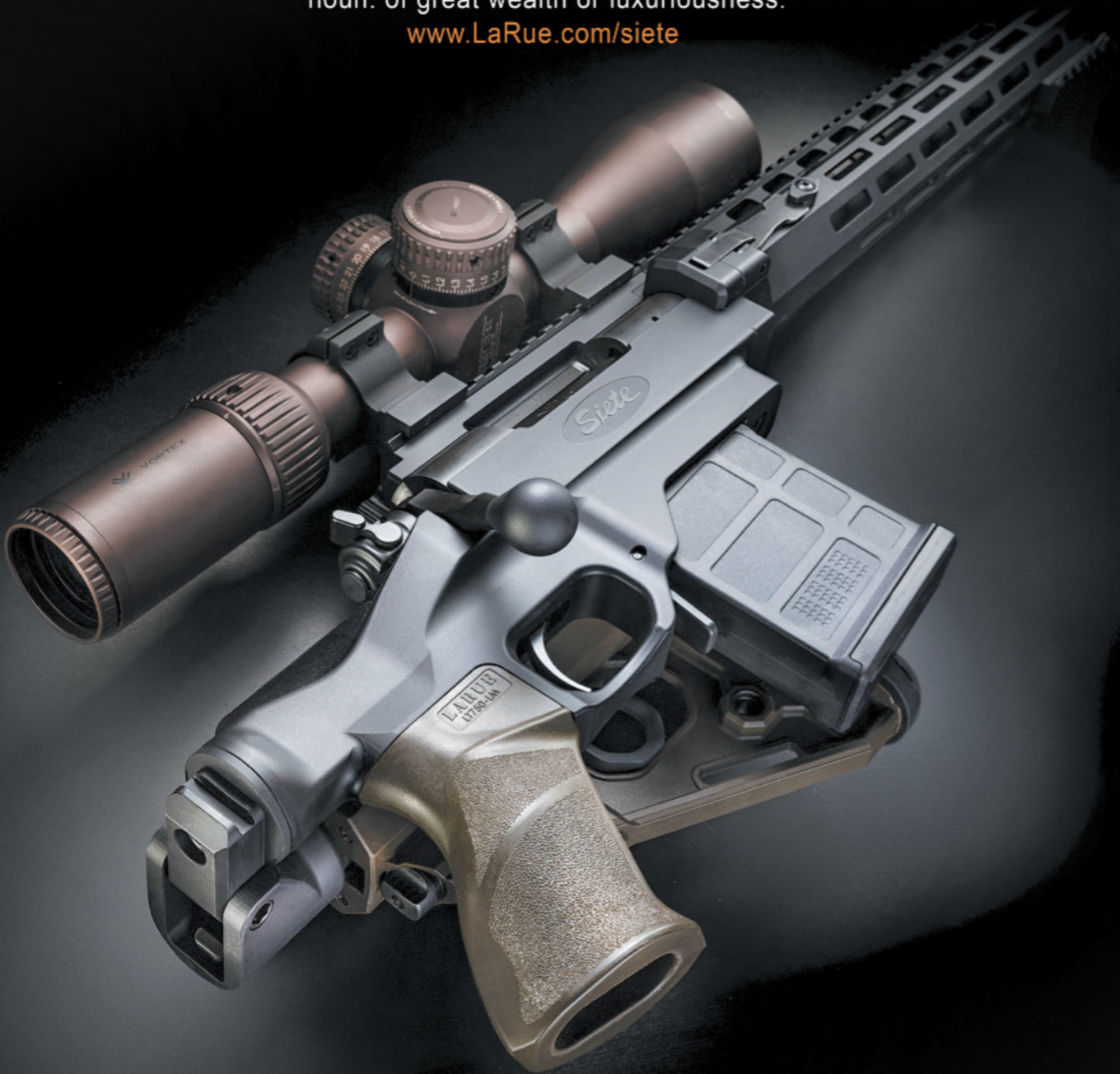


opulence

op·u·lence

noun: of great wealth or luxuriousness.

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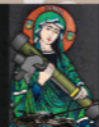
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Rifle Bolts - Get em' while they are still available!

Lee Enfield #4 Mk1 Bolt, Complete \$125. #LE4014
K98 Mauser complete Bolt assy w/ turned down handle. \$195. #MSR637
Springfield 1903 Bolt complete. \$69.95 #SPF004 late, Exc.
Carraro Rifle Bolt complete. \$70. #CC048
Enfield P14 Bolt, complete. \$100. #P14002

See Web Site for details

1913 Artillery Luger Stock w/ Holster

WW1 Era preproduction stock which was used on the Western Front, but was dropped for the less expensive standard board stock that was cheaper to produce. Hardwood stock finely crafted with opening rear door for storage of the pistol. Includes leather holster and internally stored Luger tool and cleaning rod. This is the best Artillery stock. Very Limited. New. (gun not included) \$295. #LGR203

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. Very 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

M14 E2 Stock

New Beech stripped stock for upgrading your M1A or M14 Rifle to a configuration of the popular M14E2 rifle of the Vietnam War. Stripped and unstained & ready for your barreled receiver.

\$165. #M14364

Also available - M14E2 Stock with metal hardware specifically for the M14E2, including the ventilated handguard.

\$340. #M14383

1903-1903A3

Springfield 'Straight' Stocks
Getting almost impossible to find these original USGI stocks. We have a small number w/ minor repairs made which are the 'special select' of what we have remaining. May be your last chance to obtain this USGI stock. Very Limited.

\$250. #SPF116-SS

Lee Enfield #1MK3 Stock Set

Replacement stock set with original butt stock and new manufacture forend and handguards. Some minor fitting may be required. Forend and handguards are unstained so you will need to apply your preferred stain.

\$159.95 #LE3091

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

M1A1 Carbine Stock

Turn your M1 Carbine into a WW2 Paratrooper model with this wood stock set (matching wood), w/ metal folding stock. Makes it more fun to shoot, store away, & improves value! New

\$174.95 #CRB098

Ruger 10/22 Stock and Handguard

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



Happy Thanksgiving

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



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

M84 Scope, Base, & Mount

Want to build an M1 Garand Sniper Rifle? This set will get you on your way. Brand new mfr. 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



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



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



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



Enfield #32 Sniper Scope, Mount & Pads

Classic #32 MK1 British sniper scope with mount and pads as well as distinct solid clicks on the Windage & Elevation knobs. Clicks 50 yards incrementally out to 1,000 yards.

\$445. #SCP062

M16/AR15 USGI BIPOD w/ M3 Case

Original Bipod \$29.95 #AR533



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



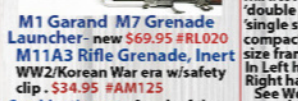
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Highest quality & rugged for the hardest duty. In 'double stack' & 'single stack', compact and full size frame pistols. In Left hand and Right hand draws. See Web Site for details.

Compact & Full size frame holsters are \$59.95

COMPACT (part's HOL229 & HOL230)

FULL SIZE (part's HOL227 & HOL228)



M1 Garand M7 Grenade Launcher

new \$69.95 #RL020

M1A3 Rifle Grenade, Inert WW2/Korean War era w/ safety clip. \$34.95 #AM125

Combination set - Teach of the M7 Launcher and M1A3 rifle grenade for \$99.95 #RL021

U.S. Pineapple Grenade, Inert steel w/ orig. fuze. \$18.95 #AM026

U.S. M23 Rifle Smoke Grenade, Inert steel. \$34.95 #AM242

M79 Grenade Launcher Stock, Original USGI

Original USGI composite stock with butt pad, swivel, & screw. Unissued! \$25. #M79002

50 cal. Mount New w/ T&E & Pintle \$1,495. #MNT153



French Foreign Legion Mle49 Bush Hat

famed for comfort and utility. Cotton hat is durable & strong to deal with extremes. Khaki circular sewn construction has stiffness, but is still able to be folded and stuffed in a pack or cargo pocket. U.S. Sizes: Med. 7-1/4" Lg. 7-1/2, XL 7-5/8"

\$34.95 #HAT22

M2 Tripod w/ T&E, Pintle

Tripod with traversing & Elevation mechanism and pintle assembly. New. (gun not included.) Includes WW2 dated data plate

\$325. #MNT112

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!

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

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

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!)

Navy Luger Board Stock w/ brass disc.

\$129.95 #LGR158

Artillery Luger Board Stock

\$74.95 #LGR157

WW1 Winchester Ventilated 'Trench Gun' Handguard

For Winchester 97 Shotgun as used in WW1 and can be used on other shotguns with some modification. The bayonet lug allows connection with the P17 and P14 bayonets. Has front sling swivel. Act quickly as we always sell out of these!!!

\$129. #W97058



P38 Soft Shell WW2 Holster
New. w/ German WW2 markings.



\$18.95
#HOL080

Austrian Rast & Gasser Holster, WW1. New 1898 model.



A standard holster of the Austro-Hungarian forces & used in WW2

\$32.
#HOL222

Radom VIS-35 Pistol Holster as issued in WW2. Brown Leather



As used by German Forces when Stock was captured and put to use.

\$27.50
#HOL023

Radom Shoulder Holster issued 1934-1939. Really well made and can handle many mid sized frame pistols. Internal Mag Pouch



\$36.
#HOL163



M1 Garand Walnut Stock Set
Walnut stock set with converted stock tip professionally converted from .308 to .30-06. Stock is old and Handguards new manufacture. Perfect replacement stock set for worn Garands! **\$99.95 #GRD278**



M65 Field Jacket w/Liner
Whether its Fall or Winter, this jacket will serve you well with its warmth and ruggedness. Four main pockets and also a hood inside the collar. Color is Olive drab. Available in western sizes: Med., Large, XL, 2XL
\$69.95 #JKT03



U.S. 1917 Wood Ammo Box
Traditional U.S. WW1 Ammo box carefully dovetailed & adorned with solid hardware and leather handle. Slotted edge for use with the 1917 Tripod. Great for carrying ammo or tools!
\$44.95 #MISC674

WW2 U.S. Revolver Holster
like the M3, but with .38 bullet loops on the strap. Victory Model.



\$28.95
#HOL183

U.S. WW2 M3 Shoulder Holster
for use with the Model 1911 pistol



Brown leather. U.S. marked.
\$24.95
#HOL038

U.S. M7 Shoulder Holster



As used by German Forces when Stock was captured and put to use.
\$20.
#HOL028

U.S. M7 Shoulder Holster
LEFT Hand Draw!



We have a limited number of these in medium brown leather. U.S. Marked.
\$35.
#HOL082

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Govt. Model 1911 Pistol 'Builders Parts Set'

Perfect parts set for building a Government Model 1911 as all parts are included except for the frame. Parts are new except for grips that may be take offs from disassembled GI pistols. This set comes with a new 7 rd. .45 cal. magazine and new Government model slide with sights and 5" barrel. This is our most popular 1911 'Builders Kit' because it is highly economical in the pursuit of building your own 1911 pistol.

\$279.95 #C45097



Model 1911 Builder Kit w/o Frame, Slide, or Barrel

Pre 1970 type 1911 parts for building a Govt. Model 1911A1. If you are a shooter this is a great 'spares' kit and perfect if you want to rebuild an original Govt. 1911 pistol. Parts are new and will save you a bundle over buying a store bought pistol! **\$159.95 #C45096**

M1C Garand Flash Hider
Very Limited.
\$125.
#GRD388

T37 Garand Flash Hider
as used with the M1D Sniper Rifle
\$39.95 #GRD111

M Garand Trigger Housing Assy. Complete!
\$99.95 #GRD023

Beretta 92 Barrel w/ Locking Block
New. **\$125.** #BR9206

Enfield #4Mk1 Grenade Launcher
Original in Exc. condition. Fits U.S. rifle grenades too.
\$49.95 #LE4056

Enfield #1Mk3 Grenade Launcher
Original in good cond. Very Limited.
\$95.99 #LE3113

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Stocks, Parts, Accessories, Scope. Please visit our Web Site

New AR15 20" Barrel, 5.56mm
1 in 9 Twist. **\$149.95 #AR170**
Gas hole drilled!

Claymore Mine
Full size infamous U.S. mine, new made synthetic with metal legs and Claymore carry bag w/instructions. Inert **\$69.95 #MISC89**

Mosin Nagant Rifle
VG cond. **\$189.95 #N91084**
Complete

RPG-2 Rocket
Original rocket w/ dummy warhead. Inert **\$119.95 #RL020**

WW2 Japanese TYPE 97 Hand Grenade
Steel body with brass 'screw' on fuse with safety pin. Quite hefty like the originals, that were found all over the Pacific island campaigns. New. **\$35.95 #AM243**

U.S. Ammunition Cans
New/Unissued & Unmarked

A. .30 cal small can
\$18. #AM236
(10.75x3.75x7")

B. .50 cal. can
\$22. #AM227
(11.75x6x7.5")

C. 'FAT' .50 can
\$32. #AM238
(12.5x7.25x8.5")

M31 Rifle Grenade
Steel, new, inert rifle grenade as used in the 1950s/60s. For use on Garand, Carbine, M14, M16 rifles. **\$53.95 #MISC875**

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 Springfield. 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!
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Japanese 'Knee Mortar' Round- Inert, Steel, brass, & copper with safety pin. Beautiful realistic reproduction with markings.
\$65. #AM240

Green Rocket
#RL003G **\$75. ea.**

Tan Rocket
#RL003T **\$75. ea.**

German WW2 Panzerfaust Rockets
60 meter

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#HLM103

U.S. Naval 37-J1 Type Tropical Flight Jacket
USN/USMC Early WW2 flight jacket with white cotton liner and khaki cotton outside shell with USN marking and leather Nav.Wing emblem. Comfort & great looking! Softens and fades nicely with age. Available in western sizes: Med., Lg, XL, 2XL. Very Limited.

\$75. #JKT05

Tactical MOLLE Medical Pouch Set
Essentials for administering first aid that beats the price & quality of most kits on the market. Pouch is MOLLE construction (8x7x3.5") consisting of: Splint, Trauma bandage, Ace band., Scissors, Tourniquet, Tweezer, Triangular bandage, Qtips, Resuscitation device, Emergency blanket, Alcohol, Iodine pads, Antiseptic wipes, Multi tool, and many other articles. See Web Site for information. Pouches are in Tan, OD, Multi Cam, Intl. Orange. Your choice!

\$29. #MEDPACK01



Olive Drab

Tan

Intl. Orange

Multi Cam

MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION'S

MAC-5



The MP5-Type Firearm
You Can Easily Own
and For a Lot Less!
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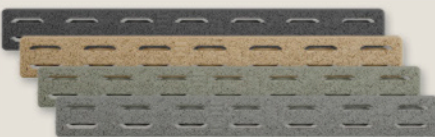
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FIFTH CIRCUIT RULES ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

By Darwin Nercesian

An illegal alien, having been deported multiple times for violating U.S. immigration law, decided once again that the rules did not apply to him when he made a U-turn and came right back, this time in possession of a loaded Taurus PT-58 handgun.

Federal prosecutors charged Jose Paz Medina-Cantu with illegal re-entry and unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition after his arrest in 2022. Border Patrol agents discovered Medina-Cantu during an ambulance inspection at a South Texas checkpoint. 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(5)(A) prohibits illegal aliens from owning or possessing firearms.

In district court, Medina-Cantu requested charges be dismissed on grounds that Section §922(g)(5) violates the Second Amendment, a protection he claims entitlement to, unlike the laws that he did not believe applied to him in the first place. Isn't it funny how that works?

District Court Judge Gonzales Ramos didn't find it amusing, however, rejecting the request in light of precedent set in *Portillo-Munoz*, where in 2011 the Fifth Circuit upheld Section 922(g)(5)(A), reasoning that 'the people' referred to by the Second Amendment did not include those having illegally entered the United States.

He Was Subsequently Convicted.

Medina-Cantu appealed the conviction in the Fifth Circuit using a sideways-sounding *Bruen* decision argument, claiming that the government failed to perform the historical analysis necessary to uphold the constitutionality of 922(g)(5)

(A). Prosecutors maintained their district court argument based on *Portillo-Munoz* adding that *Bruen* did not negate precedent and that Section §922(g)(5) is consistent with the historical tradition.



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The government also reasoned that illegal aliens are not entitled the right to bear arms based on the plain text of the Second Amendment, causing me to scratch a bald spot into my head wondering if this was the same "plain text" that the 2A community has been trying to explain to them for years, but I digress...

In late August, the Fifth Circuit rejected Medina-Cantu's arguments reaffirming that illegal aliens are not guaranteed or entitled to Second Amendment rights, citing that while *Bruen* addressed historical prerequisites to firearm regulation, the case did not provide guidance that would expand upon precedence as to who was protected.

Case Closed? Not So Fast.

Earlier this year, Illinois District Court Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman held that Section 922(g)(5)(A) does violate the Second Amendment, concluding that the

Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision should apply contextually to an illegal alien charged with unlawful possession of a firearm under Section 922(g)(5). Johnson went on to state that the "non-violent

circumstances" of the arrest do not support a finding that the illegal alien poses a public safety risk and as such, he should not be deprived of his right to bear arms.

The conflict between the Fifth and Seventh Circuits sets the stage for a future showdown in the U.S. Supreme Court, which will assuredly raise questions about public safety and national security. While it is true that the presence of illegal aliens is itself a violation of our immigration laws, that status can have compounding realities associated

with it, such as identity theft, tax evasion, and more. While those circumstances may not be disqualifying factors when it comes to firearm ownership, a serious cause for concern lies in the fact that illegal aliens are, by definition, unvetted individuals whose backgrounds we more or less are unaware of.

With Americans struggling to pursue our inalienable rights as recognized by the Founding Fathers, it is somewhat irritating to see Judge Johnson electing to cater to those who have entered the country illegally, but let's face it, we all know what's going on here. Granting Second Amendment protections to illegal aliens isn't even the most egregious of offenses, as states like California, Colorado, and Illinois allow them to serve as law enforcement officers, requiring them to carry firearms and giving them authority over actual law-abiding citizens. **TN**

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HARRIS IS THE ONE LYING ABOUT GUNS

By David Codrea

“And then this business about taking everyone’s guns away,” Vice President Kamala Harris prefaced a rebuttal in September’s presidential debate, joining forces with ABC News “moderators” against Donald Trump. “Tim Walz and I are both gun owners. We’re not taking anybody’s guns away. So, stop with the continuous lying about this stuff.”

Walz being a Fudd, a politician with an A rating from NRA who then turned around and embraced the Democrat citizen disarmament agenda after he no longer needed the votes, is well known (albeit not acknowledged by Party apologists). But per *Reuters*, Harris’s admission to owning a gun was “a revelation that surprised some voters but carried a deliberate political message.”

The political message is “Trust me,” and evokes nothing so much as the fable of the scorpion and the frog. And as for it being a surprise, it shouldn’t be. Even Dianne Feinstein “kept a revolver in her purse” (an elitist “privilege” denied to her constituents), and Harris’ carrying on the elitist tradition first gained wider attention when she admitted to reporters at a Moms Demand Action rally in 2019 that she did, too, “for personal safety. I was a career prosecutor.”

That wasn’t good enough for uber nepo baby/hysterical hoplophobe Peter Funt, son of Alan of *Candid Camera* fame and still feeding out of his father’s trough, who gave us a glimpse in the 2020 elections of what gun prohibitionists really mean when they talk about “commonsense gun safety laws.”

“Kamala Harris owns a handgun. That’s disqualifying for a 2020 Democrat in my book,” Funt wrote when learning the news. “Kamala Harris doesn’t seem to have the courage to concede that owning a handgun for protection is a bad idea. Instead, she has given voters a real choice: Back candidates who care enough about gun control to not own handguns or support the only major Democratic contender who has one and won’t throw it away.”

Funt actually holds the “originalist” position when it comes to “gun control.”

“I would be for abolishing all guns,” Sen. Thomas Dodd, principal author of the Gun Control Act of 1968 declared. “I never saw

any sense to guns anyway, and I do not go backward by saying so. I hope some day the world will say ‘Destroy them all.’”

Building on that, Nelson “Pete” Shields, the founder of what would become the Brady Campaign, revealed a starting goal and the game plan to reach it back in 1976 with a telling admission to *The New Yorker*: “We’re going to have to take one step at a time, and the first step is necessarily — given the political realities — going to be very modest. . . . [W]e’ll have to start working again to strengthen that law, and then again to strengthen the next law, and maybe again and again. Right now, though, we’d be satisfied not with half a loaf but with a slice. Our ultimate goal — total control of handguns in the United States — is going to take time. . . . The first problem is to slow down the number of handguns being produced and sold in this country. The second problem is to get handguns registered. The final problem is to make possession of all handguns and all handgun ammunition—except for the military, police, licensed security guards, licensed sporting clubs, and licensed gun collectors—totally illegal.”

Add to that citizen disarmament edict after edict enacted federally, in the states, cities, and everywhere, in Everytown, along with myriad trial balloons floated over the years to repeal the Second Amendment, and the only conclusion plausible when some anti claims, like Harris just did, that no one is talking about taking your guns is to realize of course they are. And they’ll take it in increment after increment, as much as stupid politicians are willing to make concessions to the evil ones in the name of compromise. There’s a reason the word “totalitarian” refers to all, and you’ll note none of the prohibitionists eroding freedoms to enable a monopoly of violence are ever willing to define a point that’s “enough.”

It’s the same with Harris, and her apologists are out there passing along a talking point narrative for the rest of the media to parrot.

“Despite Lies Spread by Trump and the NRA, Harris and Walz Do Not Want To Take Everyone’s Guns Away,” Democrat apparatchik disguised as journalist Nick Wilson writes for leftist American Progress.

True, not everyone. Loyal enforcers

get to keep theirs. And you can keep your Fudd gun — for now. Provided someone with unknown motives doesn’t file unproven allegations against you.

As for millions of the verboten ones, forget it. By focusing on the word “all,” propagandists can deflect from addressing the real issue: “shall not be infringed.” It’s the same swindle they use when claiming the Nazi Weapons Law of 1938 loosened Weimar Republic restrictions, conveniently overlooking the fact that it eviscerated them for the “wrong people,” with the registration lists allowing them to be disarmed and rounded up.

Meanwhile, Harris is toning down the rhetoric on “mandatory buybacks” (i.e., confiscation) of “assault weapons,” the due-process-denying reality of “Red Flag Laws,” a pledge to dictate on guns through executive actions, and more.

If she gets the cards she is willing to show, who believes that will be it? Particularly since that will mean she will have the power to reshape the Supreme Court through “expansion,” something she has been endorsing for years, overturn *Bruen*, and ban any damn thing her string-pullers tell her to?

UPDATE:

Two significant developments were revealed after this article was submitted:

A 2007 video resurfaced of then-San Francisco District Attorney Harris beside then-Mayor Gavin Newsom speaking on a gun ordinance and telling reporters, “Just because you legally possess a gun in the sanctity of your locked home doesn’t mean that we’re not going to walk into that home and check to see if you’re being responsible.”

The Fourth Amendment has no more meaning to totalitarians than the Second.

And in a recent interview with Oprah Winfrey, while trying to fraudulently establish her gun creds, Harris declared, “If somebody breaks into my house, they’re getting shot.”

With “safe storage” being defined by gun controllers as locking the firearm and ammunition separately, she did not flesh out how that could happen without giving the advantage to the home invader. **FN**

[Cont. to page 108]

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE AIMPOINT ACRO

The Aimpoint ACRO was the first enclosed pistol sight meant to ride on the slide of a pistol, and to many people it has become the standard in pistol optics. The story of the development and evolution of the ACRO is very interesting.

The story of the Aimpoint ACRO starts with the Aimpoint Micro. Brügger & Thomet bought the rights for the Steyr MP9, and renamed/relaunched it as the TP9, a small 9mm personal defense weapon (PDW). B&T wanted fellow Swedish company Aimpoint to design an OEM optic for the TP9, something smaller than the Comp series, and the hugely successful Micro was the result. B&T then designed their USW (Universal Service Weapon), which was even smaller than the TP9, basically just a 9mm pistol with a stock—the FLUX Raider is a modern evolution of the USW concept.

Karl Brügger of Brügger & Thomet came to Erik Jeppsson, currently the Worldwide Sales and Marketing Director for Aimpoint, and said they needed something smaller than the Micro for the USW. The Aimpoint Nano was the result, designed specifically for the B&T USW. The Nano uses a similar cross-bolt mounting system to the later ACRO, and sits on the USW's frame. And then the pistol optic market started to emerge. Once Aimpoint



The original Aimpoint ACRO P-1 on the left, compared to the latest P-2 on the right, which uses a much larger battery, has improved controls, and can accommodate flip-up lens covers as seen here.

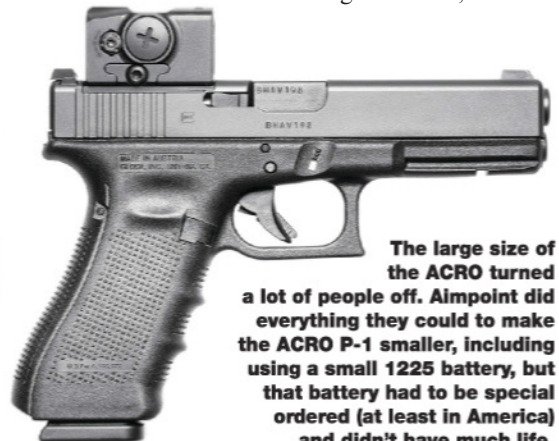
got the USW into production, they started testing it on slides as well, but found it wasn't durable enough to handle the recoil forces.

The project to develop the second generation of the Nano is what produced the ACRO P-1. Aimpoint had several in-house requirements. First, it had to be an enclosed sight like the Nano. Second, it had to be submersible to 25 meters. Third, it had to endure 20,000 rounds of .40 S&W during testing. Jeppsson explained, "We

looked at where the weak points were on other pistol optics. There was nobody guaranteeing their optic could withstand 10,000 or even 5,000 rounds. We'd heard rumors slide-mounted pistol optics break very often. So, we went into the project with the thought that our optic needed to withstand 20,000 rounds of .40 S&W, and that helped us leap in front of everybody." The reciprocating slide of a 9mm generates 5,000 Gs, whereas a .40 S&W generates 7,000 Gs.



The unique mounting system of the ACRO means there are no screws to shear off under recoil. The recoil lug running across the bottom means the entire housing of the sight absorbs the recoil.



The large size of the ACRO turned a lot of people off. Aimpoint did everything they could to make the ACRO P-1 smaller, including using a small 1225 battery, but that battery had to be special ordered (at least in America) and didn't have much life.



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As part of the original torture test, several Aimpoint employees put 21,000 rounds through a pistol with an ACRO mounted in two days.

One of the ways they built the ACRO tougher than the competitors was in the mount. Jeppsson told me, *“Instead of having screws interlocking, that can shave off, we went with our trusted recoil system where you can push on that recoil lug so that lug absorbs the recoil. Which means the whole housing of the sight absorbs the recoil.”*

“Before we launched,” Jeppsson told me, “a colleague and I went to the range and fired 17,000 rounds in one day. We swapped the ACRO between pistols to cool it down, because the pistol was so hot you couldn’t hold it even with gloves. We fired another 4,000 rounds the next day. To prove to ourselves the optic was reliable. We’d done internal endurance testing, using machines, but you have to live fire also.”

Aimpoint specifically wanted an enclosed optic because of its advantages—with an open optic, if water or dirt gets on the lens or in front of the projector, you lose your reticle. But enclosed optics by their very design are larger.

To keep the weight down, to keep the optic as thin as possible, so it was not much wider than the average pistol slide, Aimpoint decided to use the same battery they were using in the Nano—a 1225. The 1225 lithium battery is roughly the size of

► **The window of the ACRO is actually larger than that of the Micro, while it has the same water/temperature resistance, and better shock resistance, so it wasn’t long before people were mounting them on long guns. This is a P-2 with factory flip-up lens covers. Photo by Andy Grossman.**



an American dime, but that battery choice proved to be problematic.

Illumination setting number seven (out of 10) is bright enough to use outdoors on a cloudy day, but not quite bright enough to use in full sunlight, and listed battery life at that setting was just six months. Quite disappointing to people used to expecting years of battery life in their Aimpoints. Another complication—in America, the 1225 battery was not commonly available. Neither Duracell, Energizer, or Rayovac make 1225 batteries, and that size battery was simply not offered for sale in any stores—they all had to be ordered online. So within a year of launch of the P-1, Aimpoint went to work on the second generation, the P-2. They added a bigger battery, the common CR2032, which upped battery life to 50,000 hours at setting number six.

The square window of the Aimpoint ACRO measures .63 of an inch by .63 of an inch (16mm). The Aimpoint Micro T-1, which many people consider the AR-15 red dot against which all others should be compared, has a circular window which measures .71 of an inch in diameter. If you do the math, you’ll see that means the Aimpoint ACRO has a tiny bit more window area than the Micro T-1 even though it is smaller, weighs one-third less, and is meant to go on a pistol.

Jeppsson told me, *“Not long after introduction of the P-1 we already had customers putting the P-1 on carbines.*

And those customers wanted to have flip covers for that optic. So when we did the revamp, we included flip covers and a quick and easy way to attach them.” The P-2 is built to the same water and temperature resistance as the Micro.

Aimpoint has subsequently introduced additional variants of the ACRO. The ACRO S-2 is intended to mount on the vent rib of shotguns. The new ACRO C-2 is specifically optimized for use on carbines.

While the mini-mailbox look of the ACRO originally got it negative attention, its performance has won people over, and its performance has kept it a leader. The Aimpoint ACRO is the pistol optic against which all others are judged. It didn’t just set the standard; it is the standard. **TN**



Aimpoint offers several versions of the ACRO, including this FDE-finished P-2.



1911

OPTICS READY



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DEFENDER OF AN EMPIRE THE .303 BRITISH

Should You Consider It Today?

I received my first centerfire rifle when I was 11 years old. It was an old sporterized Lithgow No. 1 Mk III* Lee Enfield in .303 British. I loved that old \$47 rifle dearly. Growing up in rural Maine, I hunted deer with it in the fall and learned to handload for it when I was 12, and so began a love affair with this cartridge which remains to this day. Originally adopted by the British Crown in 1888, it began its service life as a black powder round. Like most military cartridges, the .303 British went through an evolutionary process. The propellant was switched from black powder to smokeless Cordite in the Mark II loading. The original 215-grain round nose FMJ also quickly evolved through various designs. The Mk III was actually loaded with a soft point, while the Mk IV and V loads featured “Dum Dum” or hollow point projectiles to improve terminal performance.

In 1910, the famous Mark VII flat-base 174-grain FMJ was adopted. Featuring a muzzle velocity of 2,440 fps, there was more to this projectile than met the eye. The nose of the projectile featured a lightweight filler material (compressed paper, wood pulp, cellulosic plastic or aluminum) making it tail heavy. This was intended to give it an early yaw cycle to improve terminal performance while remaining within the confines of the Hague convention restrictions on warfare. Loaded with cordite and fired by a Berdan primer, this load



A classic design, the .303 Mk VII soldiered on in British service until finally replaced by the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge in the 1950s.

soldiered through two World Wars and numerous smaller conflicts.

The .303-inch cartridge is a rimmed bottleneck design. It’s interesting to note that the military cases featured beveled rims to prevent “rim lock” when feeding from box magazines. Case length is 2.222 inches or 56.4mm with a 0.540-inch rim diameter and 0.460-inch base diameter. Overall length is 3.075-inches. Typically, it was loaded with a Berdan primer in military service.

While good, the .303 British does have its obvious shortcomings. The rim is a bit of a pain, especially when loading from stripper clips. Commercial ammunition, which lacks the



A look inside a .303-inch Mk VII round showing its “spaghetti”-like cordite propellant, flat base projectile and over powder wad.



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The .303 British is a bit lazy in the wind and not as flat as some of its contemporaries, but still a lot of fun.

beveled rims of military spec cases, can rim lock if loaded improperly into the magazine. Velocity is moderate, and a step-behind the .308 Winchester. This becomes apparent when shooting at 500 yards and beyond. Case life is also relatively short when reloading. Many attribute this to the Lee Enfield's rear locking lugs. However, I believe it's due to oversized military chambers. Also, the .303 British never attained a reputation for sterling accuracy, like the .30-'06 and some of its other peers did.

Despite these issues, I have always enjoyed my time with the .303. I have used them hunting, shot them in competition, and plinked out to 1,200 yards. In the old days, Sierra's 180-grain Spitzer was the best projectile available for long range. Luckily, there are better options available now with Sierra's 174-grain MatchKing being my first pick. Bullets are readily available in weights running from 123 to 215 grains. Performance wise, the .303 British has taken everything in North America, but most would consider it a bit light for the big bears. When I was a youngster though, a 215-grain round nose from a .303 British was considered a reliable moose load due to its deep penetration. Some of my favorite factory loads for hunting would include: Remington's 180-grain Core-Loct, Winchester's Super-X 180-grain Power-Point, Federal Premium's Power-Shok 150-grain SP.

As a kid, I loved plinking with my Lee Enfields. Unfortunately, the days of cheap surplus .303 ammunition seems to have come to an end. So, if you are going to spend time with your favorite .303 at the range, I suggest



reloading. Dies, cases, data, and anything else you might need are all readily available. To help, here are some of my favorite components to consider:

Favorite Projectiles

215-grain Woodleigh Weldcore RN SP
180-grain Sierra Pro-Hunter
174-grain Sierra MatchKing
150-grain Barnes TSX
150-grain Hornady Spire Point
123-grain Speer Hot-Cor SP

Favorite Powders

AA2520
IMR4895
RL15

A classic design, the .303 Mk VII soldiered on in British service until finally replaced by the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge in the 1950s. So, it lived a very long and successful life. Being a rimmed design is certainly a drawback. While not an issue in the Lee Enfield series of rifles, or the Vickers machine gun, the rimmed case design would prove a drawback in auto-

matic weapons. As a “universal” type of cartridge fielded in rifles, as well as in light machine guns and the Vickers Gun, the 174-grain bullet weight proved a good compromise. However, it was not the “ideal” solution for the individual weapons platforms.

Today, the .303 British is still capable of providing a fun day on the range. I always enjoy my time spent with it. In the hunting field it is well able to take medium and big game when loaded with the proper bullet for the task. Today there are more modern cartridges available, but I still relish my time with the old rimmed .303. **FN**



The .303 British is an easy cartridge to reload, with data, dies and components readily available!

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GEMTECH'S GM-9

Old School, Still Cool

The Gemtech GM-9 was made to be light. Constructed mostly of aluminum, it uses steel in the threads, booster, and spring. From the outside it looks like any other 9mm suppressor, but it can be used with .300 Blackout in subsonic loads. It is not full-auto rated. Not that many of us have that option, and not going full-auto-rated is a small price for the light weight.

On the back end is the booster assembly. To remove the booster as a unit from the GM-9, grab (or use a strap wrench) the section with the round-ended grooves machined into the outer wall of the assembly. If you

want to take the booster apart (say, to put in a fixed spaced for use on a PCC) then you need to unscrew the knurled and ridged disc at the rear of the booster assembly. Then swap the spring for your fixed spacer. Or just go with simple threaded rear cap.

The GM-9 is compatible with the various Multimount adapters that Gemtech designed and offered over the years. This means you can go with a fixed thread rear (or as mentioned, a fixed spacer in the booster, replacing the spring) or the three-lug MP5 mount that were so hot an item for years they might as well have been made of unobtainium.

To disassemble the GM-9 to expose the baffles, you unscrew the cylindrical section with the sixteen flats on it. This is the part of the GM-9 that is the monocoire. The front cap? There isn't one, at least, not one you can remove, as it is an integral part of the monocoire. That makes manufacturing a bit easier, and it also makes your life easier if you have an "oops." As in, a baffle strike. If you have such a problem, the monocoire is not the suppressor. Since the exterior tube is the part with the serial number, it is the suppressor. So, you can send your damaged monocoire back to Gemtech with apologies for repairs without

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needing to file a transfer form. Just let them know it is coming, and keep the serialized part in your safe, awaiting the replacement monocoil's return.

Utilizing one of the Multimount rear caps, you can park the GM-9 on a pistol, a PCC, or even rifles in appropriate calibers. The GM-9 can be used with .300 Blackout in subsonic loadings, but you will need the appropriate-thread rear cap to attach it. The best part is that you can, with the correct thread rear, also use the GM-9 on lesser cartridges. Like .22LR. Will it be the quietest rimfire suppressor ever made? Maybe, maybe not, but then again it will be

really quiet. The clearance for a 9mm bullet may be large down the bore for the .22LR, but the internal volume of the GM-9 far surpasses any rimfire suppressor made.

And since the GM-9 can be disassembled, and you'll be taking it apart to clean it regardless of the caliber ammunition you use, then knock yourself out with rimfire. Your ultrasonic cleaner will make short work of the buildup.

I mentioned strap wrenches. Well, pistol ammo is grubby. Rimfire ammo is incredibly grubby. You will be cleaning your GM-9, but if you shoot a bit too much ammo for hand-disassembly, you're going to need a pair of plastic

strap wrenches to wrestle it apart. The carbon and lead buildup does a remarkable job of locking things together. That's just the nature of running a handgun-caliber suppressor.

As part of the Gemtech G-Core line, (the GM-22, GM-9 and GM-45) the GM-9 was replaced as the 9mm suppressor in the lineup by the modular Lunar 9 a few years ago, but that doesn't mean the GM-9 is obsolete or ineffective. It still works fine, it still offers a great level of performance at a not-great price. If you find your local gun shop has one on hand, you would be well-served by picking that one up. **FN**



The booster is a separate assembly, which you can remove and replace with one of the Multimount rears, to use as a fixed-thread or three-lug mount.

GEMTECH GM-9

OAL:	7.8 inches
Net Added Length:	7.2 inches
Diameter:	1.5 inches
Material:	Aluminum
Weight:	8.6 oz.
Finish:	Black anodized, Type III
Calibers Available:	9mm, .300 Blackout, .22LR
Full-Auto Rated:	No
Mount System Available:	Booster, plus Multimount rear caps as options
MSRP:	\$595 (when manufactured, not now in production)
Contact:	(833) 350-9517, Gemtech.com

A person wearing a black tactical shirt and tan cargo pants is holding a Tokarev TT12 rifle. The rifle is black with a silver magazine and a black handguard. The person's hands are visible, holding the rifle. The background is a light, hazy grey.

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ITALIAN VETTERLI FUCILI E MOSCHETTI

Swiss Engineering
— Italian Flair

Photos by James Walters
unless otherwise indicate.

In 1868, the Italian army instituted trials to find a new rifle and the Swiss firm of Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft (SIG) submitted a sample of the Swiss army's new rifle, the Vetterli-designed Repetier-Gewehr M.1869.

Friedreich Vetterli (1822–1882) was a Swiss gunsmith who designed a weapon that combined a bolt action receiver with a twelve round tubular magazine. While the Italians found Vetterli suitable to their needs, they disliked the rifle's tubular magazine and its unimpressive rimfire cartridge and so SIG set about rectifying them. The magazine was discarded and a centerfire cartridge was developed. After further trials the modified Vetterli was adopted in 1870 as the Fucile di Fanteria Modello 1870.¹

The two-piece, non-rotating bolt had dual locking lugs on the bolt



A Fucile di Fanteria Modello 1870/87 with a box and charger of 10.35mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M70 and loose rounds of M90 cartridges. (Courtesy of Guns & Ammo magazine via Garry James)

handle collar which locked into mortises in the receiver. The mainspring is located at the rear of the bolt body where a removable sheet metal cap

protected it. When cocked, the end of the striker projected out of the rear of the cap providing an indication of the rifle's condition.

A safety catch was located behind the bolt handle. To apply it the bolt was opened, pulled it to the rear and the safety lever pushed forward. Then the bolt is pushed forward and the handle lowered until it is stopped by the safety and the trigger cannot be pulled. Raising the bolt handle automatically retracted the safety lever to the "off" position. A rotating ejection port cover was used to keep debris out of the receiver.

The new 10.35mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M70 consisted of rimmed, bottle necked case 47mm long loaded with a 313-grain round nosed, lead bullet which 62 grains of black powder propelled to 1,400 feet per second (fps).



1875. Italian soldiers armed with Fucili di Fanteria Modello 1870.

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The Fucile di Fanteria Modello 1870/87 was one of the oddest-looking military rifles to emerge from the latter half of the 19th century. Note the four round, Vitali magazine, spur trigger guard and the support rail behind the bolt.



The Vetterli's bolt had dual locking lugs on the bolt handle collar. The bulbous sheet metal cap at the end of the bolt covered the mainspring.



All Modello 1870 rifles and Moschetti had a sheet metal cover that could be rotated over the ejection port to keep debris out of the receiver.



A box of 10.35mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M70 and a Vitali charger.

Production was undertaken at the government arsenals Fabbrica d'Armi di Torino, Reale Fabbrica d'Armi di Torre Annunziata, Fabbrica Nazionale d'Armi Terni, Officina Costruzione d'Artiglieria and the firm of Fabbrica d'Armi Pietro Beretta.

In 1872, three carbines (Moschetti) were adopted.² The Moschetto per Truppe Speciali (T.S.) was intended for the army and was an abbreviated infantry rifle; the Moschetto Modello 1870

per Cavalleria and Moschetto per Carabinieri Modello 1870 both had half-

FUCILE DI FANTERIA MODELLO 1870	
Caliber:	10.35mm Cartuccia a pallottola M70
Overall Length:	53 in.
Barrel Length:	34.6 in.
Weight:	9.1 lbs. (unloaded)
Magazine:	Single shot
Sights:	Front: Inverted V blade, Rear: V notch adj. by quadrant from 200 to 1,000 meters
Bayonet:	20.25 in. blade

length stocks and socket type bayonets that could be carried reversed with the point in a recess in the forearm.

In 1881, an improved rear sight was adopted with range graduations increased to 1,200 meters for rifles and Moschetti to 1,000 meters.



The Moschetto per Truppe Speciali was an abbreviated Fucile Modello 1870/87.

The Moschetto per Cavalleria Modello 1870 featured a socket bayonet that could be carried reversed.



This close up of the Modello 1870 moschetto's receiver shows the safety lever behind the bolt handle and spur-less trigger guard.

SPECIFICATIONS — MOSCHETTI MODELLO 1870			
	Truppe Speciali	Cavalleria	Carabinieri
Caliber:	...10.35mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M70...		
Overall Length:	43 in.	36.6 in.	43 in.
Barrel Length:	24 in.	17.8 in.	24 in.
Weight (unloaded):	8.3 lbs.	7.8 lbs.	8.5 lbs.
Magazine:	...Single Shot...		
Sights: Front:	...Inverted V blade...		
Rear:	...V notch adj. by quadrant from 100 to 500 meters...		
Bayonet:	epee style	socket	socket

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The Fucile Modello 1870/87 used a quadrant-style rear sight. This is the latter model designed for M90 smokeless powder ammunition and adjustable to 1,800 meters.



An Italian cavalry trooper armed with a Moschetto Modello 1870. (Courtesy of Rudy D'Angelo)

In 1884, the German Army approved Paul Mauser's tubular magazine Infanteriegewehr M.71/84 and two years later the Austro-Hungarian army took Ferdinand von Mannlicher's revolutionary clip loading Repetier-Gewehr M.1886 into service.

As an ally of Germany—and a traditional foe of the Habsburgs—the Italians felt that their army needed a



Italian Ascari armed with Fucili di Fanteria Modello 1870.

► **Modello 1870/87** weapons were fitted with a four round, Vitali box magazine. The breech cover was removed and replaced by magazine cutoff lever.



► **Modello 1870/87** weapons were loaded by pushing a four round charger down into the magazine. It was then pulled out by means of a short length of knotted cord, leaving the four cartridges in the magazine.



FUCILE DI FANTERIA MODELLO 1870/87

Caliber:	10.35mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M70
Overall Length:	53 in.
Barrel Length:	33 in.
Weight:	9.1 lbs. (unloaded)
Magazine:	4-rd., charger loaded
Sights:	Front: Inverted V blade, Rear: V notch adj. by quadrant from 275 to 1,200 meters
Bayonet:	20.25-in. blade

repeating rifle. This was accomplished by using a magazine invented by Major Giuseppe Vitali which consisted of a four round, single column, metal box that fitted below the bolt. The follower was powered by a coil spring which seated around a guide-post on the bottom of the magazine body while ribs located on either side of the receiver held rounds in place.

It used a "charger" constructed of two spring steel strips connected to a wooden block which had a knotted cord attached to it. The steel strips were angled inward towards each



1935. An Ethiopian warrior armed with an Italian Moschetto Modello 1870. (Photo courtesy of Ron Azzi).



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other to hold the rims and the bullets of the cartridges. The entire unit was pushed down into the magazine, then the knotted cord was grasped and used to pull the charger out while the lips in the magazine body held the cartridges in place.

In 1887, most existing Modello 1870 weapons were fitted with Vitali magazines and were referred to as Fucili di Fanteria e Moschetti Modello 1870/87. A support rail was installed at the rear of the receiver to prevent bolt “wobble” and the sliding breech cover was removed, and a magazine cutoff installed in its place.

A year earlier, France’s adoption of the Fusil d’Infanterie Mle. 1886 (“Lebel”) firing a small bore, smokeless powder cartridge, made all black powder military rifles obsolete. In 1888, Germany and Austria-Hungary announced the adoption of small-bore repeating rifles.

While the Italians began a series of trials to find a modern rifle for their forces, as a stop gap measure it was decided to begin loading its cartridge with the newly perfected smokeless powder. The 10.35mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M90 propelled its full metal jacketed bullet to a velocity of 1900 fps which required the fitting of new rear sights.

The Modello 1870 and Modello 1870/87 series of rifles and carbines



1913. A member of the Ulster Volunteer Force armed with a Modello 1870 Vetterli rifle.

1870 and Modello 1870/87 weapons in the hands of European troops were replaced.

In 1896, an Italian army under General Oreste Baratieri invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia). Italian forces numbered about 17,500 European troops and Ascaris, the former equipped with Modello 1870/87 rifles while the latter were armed with Modello 1870 rifles.

At the battle of Adwa on March 1, 1896, the Italian force was overwhelmed by Emperor Menelik’s army and suffered over 7,000 casualties.³ Among the booty of the battle were thousands of Modello 1870 and Modello 1870/87 rifles and Moschetti, many of which were still in use by Ethiopian regular and tribal forces when the Italians invaded the country again in 1936.

One of the more notable users of Italian Vetterli rifles was the pro-British Ulster Volunteer Force. In 1912, they purchased weapons among which were surplus Modello 1870/87 rifles and ammunition from German arms dealers and smuggled them into Northern Ireland.

When Italy entered WWI, they didn’t have enough Modello 1891 weapons to equip their army and Modello 1870 and Modello 1870/87 rifles and Moschetti were issued to support troops and training depots. In 1915, it was decided to upgrade the remaining Vetterlis into more “modern” rifles.



During WWI, many Vetterlis were converted to fire the 6.5mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M91/95 and designated the Fucile di Fanteria Modello 1870/87/15.

saw combat service in Africa where Italian troops and Ascaris (native troops led by European officers) armed with Vetterlis engaged in campaigns in Somalia, Abyssinia, Eritrea, and Libya.

In 1889, the Italians adopted the Fucile di Fanteria Modello 1891 (a.k.a. the M1891 Mannlicher-Carcano)—firing a 6.5mm smokeless powder cartridge. By 1894, most Modello



Fucili Modello 1870/87/15 were fitted with a Modello 1891 style rear sight.

FUCILE DI FANTERIA MODELLO 1870/87/15

Caliber: 6.5mm Cartuccia a Pallottola M91/95

Overall Length: 53 in.

Barrel Length: 34.6 in.

Weight: 10.2 lbs. (unloaded)

Magazine: 6-rd., clip loaded

Sights: Front: Inverted V blade,
Rear: V notch adj. by quadrant from 300 to 2,000 meters

Bayonet: 9.5-in blade



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◀ WWI Romanian soldiers armed with Italian supplied Fucili Modello 1870/87.

► A pair of Russian soldiers pose for a photo. The one on the right is armed with a Fucile Modello 1870/87 while his comrade on the left has a Japanese Type 30 Arisaka.



The resulting Fucile di Fanteria Modello 1870/87/15 was produced by boring out the 10.35mm barrels and inserting a 6.5mm rifled liner; the extractor and bolt were modified to work with the Modello 1891's 6.5mm cartridge; the Vitali magazine was replaced with a Mannlicher-type unit permitting use of the Modello 1891 six round clip and Modello 1891-style sights were installed.

In 1916, the Italians provided 300,000+ Modello 1870 and Modello 1870/87s to their Russian allies who were suffering from a severe shortage of rifles. The Romanians also obtained 123,000 of them.⁴

After WWI, the Italians disposed of their remaining Vetterlis on the surplus market where they saw use in the Greco-Turkish War (1918–1922) and by Paraguay during the Gran-Chaco War (1932–1935) with Bolivia. During the Spanish Civil

War (1936–1939), the USSR supplied ex-Italian Modello 1870/87s to the Republican forces while the Nationalists received Modello 1870/87/15s from Fascist Italy. The only official recorded use after 1918 were numbers of Modello 1870/87/15 rifles that continued in service with some Ascarì units in Italy's African colonies.

Test Firing the Italian Vetterli

My good friend Doss White, a serious collector of Italian military rifles, was kind enough to supply me with a Fucile Modello 1870/87 for this report. It was in good condition with a worn but clean bore and a very (!) heavy trigger.

Doss also supplied a number of 10.35x47R handloads. As I had a very limited supply of ammunition, I erred on the side of caution and set up my target stand at seventy-five yards. Once I had figured out how much

“Kentucky elevation” to use, my best effort had five rounds in 4 1/8 inches.

In ending, I have to admit that while the Italian Vetterli rifle is a rather “interesting” weapon I found little about it to praise. While the Italians obviously found it serviceable, I don't believe they would have made a mistake had they had chosen something else. **FN**

- 1 Fucile — rifle; Fucili — rifles.
- 2 Moschetto — carbine; Moschetti — carbines
- 3 Menelik's army reportedly numbered 100,000 troops — mostly tribal levies.
- 4 <https://twitter.com/PikeGrey1418/status/1490632488108048388/photo/1>

WANT AN ITALIAN VETTERLI MODEL 1870/87/15 RIFLE?

Royal Tiger Imports has them for \$200! These are the 1915 (in-grade condition) converted model in 6.5 Carcano.

No FFL needed as these are classified as antiques. Get yours at RoyalTigerImports.com.



Test firing was conducted from an impromptu bench rest on my club's 75-yard range. The Modello 1870/87 fired this nicely centered group measuring 4 1/8 inches.

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By Vincent L. DeNiro, Editor-in-Chief
Cover and lead photo by Oleg Volk



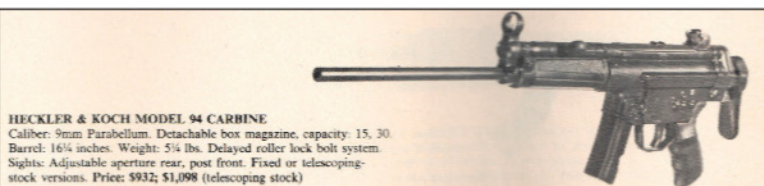
So, How Did We Get Here?

It was the mid- to late-1970s, and I jumped head-first into the gun enthusiast pool. Besides a few guns I had received from my maternal grandfather, by 1978/79 I got some “fun guns” in the form of a Colt SP1 AR-15 and an Iver Johnson Paratrooper M1 Carbine. I loved any firearm that was a semi-auto version of an assault rifle or submachine gun. And of course, I loved machine guns, but those were out of reach for a kid just shy of his teen years.

It was in 1979 that I got my hands on a then-brand-new book entitled *The Complete Machine-Gun: 1885 to the Present* by Ian V. Hogg. A fantastic hard-backed book about my favorite firearms, and that is when I discovered what a Heckler & Koch MP5 was. There were only a couple of illustrations of this submachine gun, and just a little information, but I remember that the gun made an impression on me as a very modern, high-quality submachine gun designed in Germany during the late 1960s. My father, a Korean War combat veteran, told me stories about the M3A1 Grease Gun, another favorite of mine, but the open-bolt Grease Gun compared to the closed-bolt MP5 was like comparing an Edsel

to a Corvette. The first MP5 I ever saw for sale was in a J. Curtis Earl machine gun catalog (ordered from the classified section of *Guns & Ammo* magazine) that same year. This was almost a half a decade before the HK94 carbine (semi-auto only MP5 with 16-inch barrel) would become available, and I figured that this would be one gun I probably never would get my hands on. Boy, was I wrong.

I don't remember the first time I saw an HK94 “in person,” but I do remember seeing one at a gun show in the mid-1980s. They weren't in every gun shop, and one reason was the price tag of around \$700— that's over \$2,000 in today's money. By comparison, at the same time, a Colt AR-15 SP1 was around \$550, and a Ruger Mini-14 could



HECKLER & KOCH MODEL 94 CARBINE
Caliber: 9mm Parabellum. Detachable box magazine, capacity: 15, 30.
Barrel: 16 1/4 inches. Weight: 5 1/4 lbs. Delayed roller lock bolt system.
Sights: Adjustable aperture rear, post front. Fixed or telescoping-stock versions. Price: \$932; \$1,098 (telescoping stock)

The HK94 carbine as it appeared in the 1989 *Guns & Ammo* Annual catalog section. The introductory price in 1983 was \$650 for the A2 model (with full stock), and \$720 for the A3 model (with retractable stock).



This transferable MP5 contains a Fleming registered auto sear manufactured before the 1986 machine gun ban. It has been upgraded by the top guy in the industry who works on HK-type transferable machine guns, which is Terry Dyer. Current price is \$57,495 from DealerNFA.com. (Rubin Mendiola)

be found on sale for under 300 bucks. Today, a semi-auto MP5-type pistol from HK, designated as the “SP5,” runs about \$2,800. Interesting.

I got an UZI Model A Carbine for Christmas 1981, so I already had a cool 9mm semi-auto “subgun,” but I was very happy to see the HK94 available—it was “on my list.” The HK94, as well as the HK93 (in .223 and HK43 before it), and HK91 (in .308) all were modular. That is, one could swap out the fixed stock for a retractable stock just by popping out retaining pins. Same with swapping a thin “tropical” handguard for a wide handguard, which would accept a bipod, or, in the case of the select-fire versions, swap out grip assemblies, which contained the fire-control groups (in later years there would be around a dozen options depending on model). All of these modifications could be made in seconds without tools along with a quick-detach scope mount, unlike almost all assault rifles and submachine guns at the time. Truly revolutionary.

Soon after the HK94 hit the market in mid-1983, small NFA Class 2 manufacturers started converting them to select-fire, something legal before the 1986 Firearms Owners Protection Act with its infamous Hughes Amendment, signed by President Ronald Reagan, which banned further production of machine guns for civilian sales. Typically, before then (May 19, 1986 to be exact), transferable machine guns cost maybe \$100–\$200 more than their original semi-auto configurations. Cost was mostly for the labor/machine work and a handful of small parts. The competition was pretty fierce, so there wasn’t a ton of money to be made on conversions. (I knew a lot of the people at many of the small Class 2 companies back in the day, including Bill Fleming.) However, back then, an individual could just DIY a machine gun by utilizing an approved BATF (the agency’s name at the time) Form 1, just as how many do today with home-job short-barreled rifles (SBRs). Most HK94 conversions consisted of parts swapping, with little machine work and cutting the long barrel down to SMG-length. It’s important to note that the BATF-approved HK94 carbine could not use the two push pins for the grip assembly, as it would be too easy to just pop in a select-fire grip assembly containing the full-auto parts. So, HK modified the front semi-auto grip assembly and receiver by eliminating the front pin hole and making a lip/ledge that would secure the grip assembly onto the receiver.

When I opened my retail gun store, International Exotic Arms, in 1988, I did get one HK94 A3 for inventory, and was offered a transferable at \$850 about the same time—

the transferable cost just a little more than what I paid wholesale for the semi-auto. That price would take a huge flip when President George H. W. Bush, who stated before the 1988 election, “*No new gun laws!*” would ban imported “assault rifles” in the first quarter of 1989—a ban that still stands today, the results of which are commonly referred to as “922 (r).” Two so-called “pro-gun” Republican presidents devastated the 2nd Amendment in just a three-year span during the late 1980s. Think about that.

After the 1989 ban, prices on all imported semi-auto, military-styled rifles went through the roof. HK94 carbines were selling for well over \$3,500 by April 1989 (almost \$9,000 in today’s money). In contrast, a transferable-converted HK94 “MP5” was still selling for around a grand (weird things happen)—the machine gun ban was only a few years old and there was no internet to let masses of people know that machine guns were legal (yes, many people, even gun owners, thought that machine guns were illegal back then). Today, a transferable converted HK94, or a newer semi-auto MP5 clone with a registered auto sear, will run about \$58,000. That’s not a typo. Visit machine gun dealer Rubin Mendiola’s website at DealerNFA.com to get yours, if you have the cash and desire (his prices are fair).

Hollywood Popularizes the MP5

Early on, the HK94 was seen on TV shows like *The A-TEAM*, in the hands of Hannibal Smith (played by George Peppard), firing in semi-auto with full-auto sound effects, long barrel and all. The first movie I remember to prominently feature the MP5 was the 1985 film *Stick* starring Burt Reynolds. Take a look at the movie poster (or video box), it’s more prominently shown than even the



Bruce Willis plays NYPD cop John McClane in the 1988 film *Die Hard*. In this very obvious publicity still (due to bolt handle locked back) taken on set, we see Willis with the “MP5” or converted HK94. (MovieStillsDB.com)



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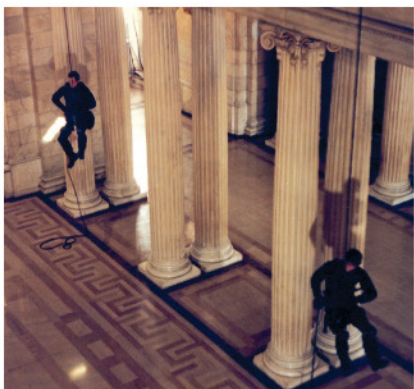
DeNiro, with some of the SFX crew and stunt crew, working on the set of HBO's *Rogue Force* (in 1997) as the head theatrical Armorer for the film. At his right is DeNiro's old friend, Brian Schuley, who worked in the special effects department and as Assistant Armorer for this movie. He is currently a SFX Coordinator and Armorer with The Specialists, Ltd. in NYC.

great HK action ads from the 1980s. Of course, it was also the “gun star” of the *Lethal Weapon* (1987) series, and the first *Die Hard* movie released in 1988.

However, almost all movies decades ago which featured the MP5 featured converted HK94 carbines (with the exception of some foreign films of the 1970s and 80s). Stembridge Gun Rentals, located near Hollywood, was the largest theatrical armory back then, as well as the oldest having supplied Charlie Chaplin films. There were also a couple of others like Ellis Mercantile. In 1991, I changed my business model from retail gun store to Exotic Arms for Motion Pictures (ExoticArms.com) and began supplying movies with blank-converted guns as well as some special effects (that's a long story on how this came about). In addition to machine guns I had in stock, I used to rent transferable machine guns from Stembridge and Ellis, and I did this on what ATF called a “Movie Gun Transfer Form.” It was done over a fax machine and was approved within 24 hours. (And you thought that Silencer Central had the best voodoo for transfers! Type “Movie Gun Transfer” into the search engine at FirearmsNews.com to learn more about this.)

I visited Stembridge in 1998, and they had a TON of converted HK94s for rent—I don't know how many, but many dozens. These all had their barrels internally threaded to accept a bolt (a “plug,” which is an internal blank firing adapter, or BFA), which has a hole drilled through it at the proper size to allow just enough gas to operate/cycle the firearm. Too large of a hole and the bolt won't cycle, too small of a hole and the cyclic rate is too high and you risk damage to the gun due to gas overpressure (strength of blank and barrel length affect hole diameter). This is how I converted many of my blowback submachine guns at the time, and it's important to note that the Stembridge family held the patent on this process around 100 years ago.

One giveaway on the MP5 movie guns is that the converted guns did not have the three-lug feature on the barrel, which is for HK's quick-detach suppressor system (also works for its flash hider). The other is when a “silencer” is used. Since the cut barrel has no three-lug feature, and is threaded internally for the BFA plug, what is used to attach a fake silencer is a blank-firing adapted plug/bolt which protrudes from one end of it. The armorer will remove the internal plug, which is used when no silencer is needed, and the plug on the fake silencer is screwed in, which also holds it in place in addition to adapting the gun to blank firing. A great example of this is in the 1998 HBO World Premiere movie *Rogue Force* (aka *Counterforce* and *Renegade Force*) starring Michael Rooker and Robert Patrick, it was also Louis Mandylor's film debut. Many of the SWAT team actors were actually real SWAT officers from the Cleveland Police Department who were also hired as advisors. I was the head armorer for the movie, and we used converted HK94s rented from Stembridge. (For info on this film, search Dr. Will Dabb's movie review article at FirearmsNews.com.) I had six of these “MP5s” on set with five being used in frame a lot of the time (with the sixth as a backup)—there's a ton of MP5 action in that movie. For the big shootout scene at the end, I had 93 30-round MP5



Actors Robert Patrick (left) and Louis Mandylor fire MP5s while rappelling in *Rogue Force*. (Vincent DeNiro set photo)



In this set photo taken between scenes, the two SWAT team members are shown with examples of fake suppressors bolted into the barrel, which also act as blank-firing adapters for these converted HK94s/MP5s. (Vincent DeNiro)



Actor Robert Patrick taking a break before his big ending scene in *Rogue Force*. (Vincent DeNiro)

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A Turkish-made MKE MP5 DeNiro chose for the award-winning action-drama film *The Prodigy* (2005). Like one of his theatrical armorers, John Lewis, said, “It ran like a sewing machine.” This gun also featured a first-generation Surefire MP5 handguard with built-in white light. (F5 Films)

ous work on the Spanish CETME rifle) in the 1950s. This rifle design would be the basis for two other chamberings in .223 and 9mm, the latter being for the MP5. Now let’s look further east.

magazines loaded for the day, and I ended up loading even more blanks. I was on set for five weeks and had no issues with the converted HK94/“MP5s”—with the exception of one that Robert Patrick purposely broke, but you will have to read Dabbs’ story to find out about that. So, if you like action movies with MP5s, it’s probably the best movie to see. Another movie I worked on was *The Prodigy*, released in 2005. I was an associate producer of the film, and my crew of theatrical armorers used an MKE MP5 we converted, which was the “star” gun in the film—it ran perfectly.

After Stembridge sold all of its inventory around 2000, Ellis Mercantile did the same, so with these two huge companies shut down, the days of renting transferable machine guns was over. The firearms were just too valuable to get banged around on movie sets for a \$200/week rental. With transferable HK94/MP5s approaching \$5,000 at the time, it became more common for theatrical armorers to purchase original MP5s as “dealer samples” (non-transferable) from HK law enforcement dealers, as many of us also used our gun licenses to sell firearms between films, which included police sales. Around 2003, I bought an HK-licensed, Pakistani-made POF MP5 and used it as a police sales sample as well as a movie rental. Instead of internally threading the barrel, I installed a washer-type plug into a slightly-modified MP5 flash hider, which is held on by the three-lug barrel. It was very safe and effective. Best thing is that it didn’t damage the barrel’s rifling like internal threading does. I also took out the bolt’s locking lugs/rollers to remove the delayed-blowback function (the same way we converted MKE guns for movie blanks). I used it in many action films without any issues.

Bratwurst or Kababs? The Gossip Stops Here!

As far as Heckler & Koch (HK), its name is synonymous with quality and innovation in all of its products ranging from handguns to belt-fed machineguns and even grenade launchers. Germany-based HK was established in 1949, by three former employees of Mauser (Edmund Heckler, Theodor Koch, and Alex Seidal) with blueprints and other records they saved from destruction by the French government after WWII. Their first production firearm project for the German government was the modular G3 rifle (based on their previ-

Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation (aka MKE), is located in Türkiye and was established in 1950. However, this was a reorganization of a series of government production arsenals which date back to the 15th century. Today, there are about a dozen manufacturing facilities that make up MKE, and they produce everything including small arms and small arms ammunition, machine guns, automatic grenade launchers, artillery, missiles, rockets, and even NBC equipment. All of their facilities manufacture its products with the most modern computerized manufacturing equipment available.

In 1999, I became president of one of the most licensed weapons companies in the United States called CTS. I had been associated with the company a few years prior and first became familiar with them when I received their law enforcement machine gun catalog back in the 1980s. CTS was mostly known as being a large NFA importer with a Title II U.S. Customs Bonded Warehouse. Back in the 1980s, the company imported about a couple hundred Turkish-made MP5s (MKE was licensed by HK). At that time, it was easier to get imported machine guns removed from bond, and when I took over, there were about 60 or so in stock and many were sold as parts kits without the receivers. CTS was also the largest HK NFA parts dealer in the 1990s to the early 2000s as well as an authorized HK LE NFA dealer.

CTS had hundreds of HK grip assemblies in stock (every configuration: SEF, Navy, two-round burst, three-round burst, three-position and four-position pictorials, etc.), along with all NFA parts. We also had a repair shop which did everything in repairs from rewelding receivers to pressing in barrels, and



About 11 MKE MP5 SMGs on a shelf in the CTS vault around 1998. (Vincent DeNiro)

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DeNiro's Pakistani-manufactured POF MP5 with first generation Surefire forend light.

everything in between including adding three-lugs to HK94 chopped barrels. We also had multiple samples (and stocked inventory) of every HK pistol, assault rifle, submachine gun, and sniper rifle (G3SG1 and PSG1—CTS had 100 G3SG1s at one time!), as well as belt-fed HK21 and HK23E machine guns. I was also the first theatrical armorer to put a G36 in a movie, which was back in 1998 (we also sold guns to Independent Studio Services which is now the largest theatrical armory company in the world). When the Department of Energy (DOE) asked HK to repair its shot-out MP5SD submachine guns, which were used by contracted Wackenhut guards (all pre-samples, look up the term if you aren't familiar), HK directed the DOE to sell them to us—CTS bought around 80, and refurbished them. I knew HK and its products very well.

So, over the years, I shot a lot of rounds out of Turkish MP5s. How many? If I were to guess, maybe around 10,000 (plus a lot of “full flash” blanks on top of that). An MKE MP5 was the rental gun in the retail end of the business' shooting range. It was mostly fed Egyptian 9mm which was at least 45 years old at the time (purchased for like a half penny/round). The only repair I remember was an extractor replacement (aside from a thorough cleaning). I also shot a ton of ammunition (and blanks) through various HK MP5s over the years. Why do you need to know all this? Well, I have read recently some of the same things I read back around the year 2000 along the lines of, “I would never buy a Turkish MP5 or Turkish MP5 parts, the quality isn't any good.” I always have a response to that and that is asking the person stating it to cite his experience with MP5s and MKE MP5s. What do I usually hear in reply? Crickets. Back around 2001, after seeing some similar chatter on an internet machine gun message board, I asked a friend of mine who worked at Copperweld Steel,

in Youngstown, Ohio, to perform a spark test on some MP5 parts from HK and MKE to see if there were any differences in quality. (TRIVIA: Copperweld Steel used to manufacture barrel blanks for Ruger.) A spark test is defined in the following way by Wikipedia.org:

“Spark testing is a method of determining the general classification of ferrous materials. It normally entails taking a piece of metal, usually scrap, and applying it to a grinding wheel in order to observe the sparks emitted. These sparks can be compared to a chart or to sparks from a known test sample to determine the classification. Spark testing also can be used to sort ferrous materials, establishing the difference from one another by noting whether the spark is the same or different. Spark testing is used because it is quick, easy, and inexpensive. Moreover, test samples do not have to be prepared in any way, so, often, a piece of scrap is used.”

The downside is that spark testing cannot identify positively what the metal material is, which would require a chemical analysis. However, it is a test which gives accurate information within its limits and is commonly used by the steel industry. I believe that I provided an HK MP5 hammer and an MKE hammer, as well as an HK bolt and an MKE bolt. The results that came back showed that there were no differences between the parts—metal quality was the same. My experience with shooting performance and reliability between both HK and MKE MP5s would agree with this test. MKE was licensed to manufacture HK weapons under HK supervision and with HK tooling. No one should be surprised that MKE produces a military-grade and reliable MP5, and rumors about MKE Turkish-made firearms lacking quality are just that, rumors.

Although this article is not about Pakistani Ordnance Factory (POF) and its HK-licensed MP5s, I owned one, as previously mentioned, and I shot the heck out of it—real bullets and blanks. It ran great as well. In 2000, I became a Special Weapons (SW) dealer while at CTS after signing an agreement with the owner of SW, Todd Bailey. I purchased 25 of his SW-5 MP5- and MP5K-type carbines per month for about a year. These were built from POF and American parts on a US-made cast receiver instead of a stamped one, as well as a straight cocking tube. I know people who still have them today and these guns still shoot great.

As far as fit and finish from all three manufacturers, well, the only thing I can say is that I would give HK first place,



The Military Armament Corporation MAC-5. (Oleg Volk)



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The MAC-5 comes with a long list of accessories. (Oleg Volk)

MKE second place (close 2nd), and POF third place. However, as I've pointed out, an MKE MP5 will run as well as an HK in my experience, and there aren't many people out there with as much experience with all three brands of select-fire MP5s as I have. As far as price, same order as above with number one being most expensive. Regarding parts, I have used original HK MP5 parts and accessories in/on both MKE and POF MP5s without any issue that I can remember.

The MAC-5 Pistol

Let's first discuss the U.S.-branded name, Military Armament Corporation (MAC). Being an older gun guy, that takes



The MAC-5 features an "SEF" grip assembly. Don't get too excited, the selector will not move into the "F" position. It also features an ambidextrous "paddle" magazine release. A trigger pack inside contains the fire-control group parts. (Vincent DeNiro)



Bolt carrier and bolt showing the bolt's right locking roller. The extractor is also of a robust design. (Vincent DeNiro)



A size comparison of the 12 1/4-ounce MP5 complete bolt carrier to the 29-ounce closed-bolt UZI Carbine complete bolt assembly. (Vincent DeNiro)

me back to stories about the "MAC-10" line of compact submachine guns. If it does you as well, you are on the right track, because it's the same name, but different company. I asked Vice-President of Marketing for SDS Imports, Neil Sanders, how this came about, and he responded, "The name was a cool throwback company that had been left by the wayside and we saw the opportunity to get it and bring back the coolness of the brand." I always liked the name, as I got an open-bolt semi-auto M-11 pistol back around 1981. SDS Imports is the parent company of MAC and handles the import from Türkiye. Since the MAC-5 is a handgun, it is not affected by Bush's 1989 imported "assault rifles" ban, that is as long as you keep it in pistol configuration.

Now for a surprise, the MAC-5 is made in Türkiye, but it's not made by MKE. The MAC-5 is manufactured by Mertsav, which is a Turkish defense contractor. This company manufactures a wide variety of defense products such as: flare launchers, multi-shot less-lethal weapons, AR-15-type select-fire rifles, M203-type grenade launchers, sniper rifles, belt-fed SAWs (M249-type), a belt-fed .50 BMG, and you probably guessed it, an MP5-type SMG designated as the MSG-9 in three configurations. Mertsav manufactures for the Turkish military as well as other countries in the region. The company is also a supplier to MKE. I reached out to the SDS Director of Engineering, Gaines Davis, for more details on the relationship between his company and its Turkish partner.

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The adjustable rear sight has a four-diopter drum; this with a fully-protected blade front sight make up the “irons.” (Vincent DeNiro)



The muzzle is threaded for 1/2x28 (with thread protector), and also has the three-lug quick-attach and -detach feature for muzzle attachments. (Vincent DeNiro)



The stamped receiver design is a strong one; it also results in a lightweight firearm for its size. Note the button and paddle magazine releases. (Vincent DeNiro)

The MAC-5 charging handle is comfortable to operate and well-positioned on the left front side for easy manipulation. (Vincent DeNiro)



companies that are only interested in quick, high-volume sales, or as is often said ‘turn and burn,’ SDS Imports set off on the approach several years ago to build a gun company whereby their associates are involved in every aspect of firearm develop, all the way from concept design/prototype development and testing to manufacturing and quality assurance oversight. USA-based SDS Imports has their own engineering and product management with the capabilities to provide CAD design and testing data analysis.”

Nearly four years ago, SDS Imports hired Davis, a mechanical engineer from the U.S. automotive industry. He had 34 years of experience at that time, and, being a lifetime competitive shooter and firearms enthusiast, was ready to finally make a living from doing his hobby. He has many years of experience working outside of the United States throughout his career, so he was naturally comfortable to begin living in Türkiye for six to eight months per year to provide engineering, manufacturing, and quality assurance direction to SDS Imports’ partners. He is currently there now working on more new products to bring to market soon.

I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking at length with Davis at the 2024 Outdoor Sportsman Group Roundtable in August of this year. He’s a sharp engineer, and I’ve worked closely with many in my 40-year-plus career in the gun industry. His one comment to me of, “*If you ask me what time it is, I’ll tell you how a watch works.*” describes him pretty well.

When I received the MAC-5 from my firearms dealer, Blue Line, Ltd., I was immediately impressed with the packaging and accessories (and I used to work for Beretta!).

The MAC-5 comes in a foam-lined hard plastic case, with a trigger “lock” attached, two 30-round magazines, flash hider (an \$80 accessory), black nylon sling with HK-type metal clasps, cleaning kit (two-piece metal cleaning rod, bore-swab tip, two brush tips: nylon and brass, and a storage case which acts as a handle —NICE!), lubricant bottle (empty), and a 35-page manual. The trigger lock really isn’t a lock that takes a traditional key, it’s just a plastic device which covers and blocks the trigger using a plastic bolt. It can be easily removed with a pair of needle-nosed pliers—my only complaint here. Now for the features.

The MAC-5, like its submachine gun counterpart, incorporates a roller-locked delayed blowback system. Basically, the MAC-5 uses moving locking rollers, instead of bolt lugs, to hold the shell in the chamber until the gasses from the fired cartridge propels the bullet down a portion of the barrel, and that is when the pressure drops to a lower level. At that time, the rollers retract and the bolt carrier moves rearward with the remaining energy. Why is this important? Well, for one, this eliminates the need for a very heavy bolt and heavier recoil spring to mitigate the force of the initial cartridge ignition, as there is no delay with high pressures in straight blowback. Early, and simpler, blowback-operated submachine guns, like the M3 Grease Gun, use a heavy two-pound bolt, 38.4 ounces with the recoil spring assembly (almost 2½ pounds). A closer “apples to apples” comparison would be the 9mm blowback semi-auto UZI Carbine, which fires from a closed bolt; its complete bolt assembly comes in at 29 ounces. The MP5-type bolt carriers are much smaller and much lighter than straight blowback sub guns. An MP5 complete bolt carrier, with recoil assembly,

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Want a bit of the 1970s MP5 retro look? The MAC-5 forend is already the early style, so just add a first-generation HK 30-round straight magazine. Be prepared for sticker shock though, as these are collector items now and run about \$150. A semi-auto metal grip assembly would be the cherry on top. (Vincent DeNiro)

comes in at only 12¾ ounces. Important to mention is that the UZI bolt is of an overhung design which transfers much of the bolt mass across the chamber and some of the barrel length. This is a way to spread out the length of a heavy bolt needed in a blowback submachine gun, which reduces the need for a long receiver, thus making a more compact firearm. This is something the designs of the MP 40 and M3 Grease Gun do not have, and something which, of course, is not needed with the MP5's roller-locked design.

Another feature that is still a bit unique is the use of a fluted chamber. This aids in extraction, as gases can move into the chamber in a way that assists in ejection. This makes the design even more reliable. Of all the “sub guns” I have owned and fired (and that’s a very long list), the MP5 is the most reliable with the Port Said (Swedish-K), Thompson, Beretta PM-12S, and Walther MPK all in a close second place. The big difference between those four and the MP5 is that the MP5 fires from a closed bolt, so it’s extremely accurate in semi-automatic.

The grip assembly is the “SEF” type and incorporates two push pins to lock it into place, something that the HK94 lacked due to BATF policies of decades prior. The HK94 also used the early metal grip assembly, which used a separate polymer grip unlike the SEF grip assembly which is entirely made of polymer. A trigger pack inside contains the fire-control group parts and only allows for safe (“S”) and semi-auto fire (“E”). The selector will not move into the third position, “F”, for full-auto fire. Unlike the early HK line of firearms of this type, the MAC-5 has an ambidextrous “paddle” magazine release in addition to the button release on the right side.

The MAC-5 receiver is stamped, folded, and welded, which results in a lightweight firearm. It features rail channels on both sides to accommodate telescoping stocks or braces. The top front of the receiver contains the cocking tube, which houses the charging handle assembly, and the charging handle can be locked back via a cut channel on the front left side. It is well-positioned on the left front side for easy manipulation (for right handers) like all firearms in this



DeNiro likes the look of the 1980s MP5 with wider forend, so he got one. (Vincent DeNiro)

series. Also on top, just to the rear of the ejection port, is the base for a quick-change optic claw mount (I tried one on the MAC-5 and it fit perfectly). Many new mounts, like the ones from Midwest Industries (MidwestIndustriesInc.com), are designed to work with this base for a solid fit. An adjustable rear sight, with an adjustable four-position diopter drum (four different size apertures), and a fully protected front sight make up the “irons.” The front sight assembly is also a bracket, which secures the cocking tube and barrel. The 8.9-inch barrel is manufactured from 4140 steel and is button rifled with a fluted chamber (as previously described) and is chrome-lined. The muzzle is threaded for ½x28 (with thread protector) and also has the three-lug quick-attach and quick-detach feature for muzzle attachments. The barrel is covered by a polymer forend with a steel reenforced bracket for the retaining pin holes. This is the original first-generation slim style and is held on by a push pin with spring retainer.

A polymer end cap or butt cap (HK calls it a “back plate”) at the back of the receiver keeps all the guts in and incorporates a sling loop with full swivel. It also has a buffer installed inside. The design of this cap also serves as the shape of the housings which contain the lock mechanisms for the retractable rails of stocks and braces.

I like the early-style narrow handguard it comes with and always had one for my MP5-type firearms. Combined with an early HK 30-round straight magazine, it’s retro 1970s style (but a metal grip assembly would help complete the look). However, I’m a bigger fan of the 1980s-style wide forend. So, I picked one up for \$26 from HKParts.com for that 1980s vibe.

The finish is lacquer paint over manganese phosphate. It seems to be a very good finish as I have installed and uninstalled three different optic mounts a few times, locking them down, and there is very little evidence of marring.

To Brace or Not To Brace, That Is The Question

Thanks to all of the 2nd Amendment groups involved, their lawyers and members, using arm stabilizing braces is legal again. However, the ruling was not solely based on the 2nd Amendment in its relation to the 1934 National Firearms Act. If it were, then short-barreled rifles wouldn’t be regulated any more. This was more of a ruling based on procedures exploited by the BATFE acting as the fourth

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The end cap (or butt cap) of the SB Tactical brace, which includes a buffer, houses the lever-actuated mechanism which allows three brace lengths: 3.2, 5.3, and 8.0 inches fully extended. (Oleg Volk)



The arm brace, which is of hard rubber, comes with an adjustable Velcro strap for different circumferences of forearms. (Oleg Volk)

adjustable Velcro strap for different circumferences of forearms, is held on by two steel rails, which fit perfectly in the rail recesses of the MAC-5. Not inexpensive at \$330 MSRP, but very well made.

Braces offer a few options to stabilize the firearm for accurate shooting. First, you have a way of shooting handguns of this type and weight one-handed. Second, you can have three points of contact; front support hand, trigger hand, and cheek on the tube or rail to which the brace is attached. Or the third option, which is to misuse the brace and have four

branch of government and utilizing Chevron [government agencies interpreting how to enforce laws (which are sometimes vague) and making up their own regulations that are enforced as law]. It's a great thing that unconstitutional Chevron took a big hit, but a brace ban can rear its ugly head again if Congress would try to specifically ban them. It's up to you, but my advice is to enjoy things while you can.

I reached out to SB Tactical (SB-Tactical.com) to get one of the HKPDW braces. SB Tactical has been known to be the leader in arm stabilizing braces using high-quality materials manufacturing. I chose this brace as it is very close in looks and operation to an HK A3 retractable stock. The end cap is manufactured from aluminum and is 6061 hard-coat anodized very dark grey/matte black, which matches the flash hider and other polymer parts well. The end cap, which includes a buffer, houses the lever-actuated mechanism which allows three brace lengths: 3.2, 5.3, and 8.0 inches fully extended. It also has a quick-detach (QD) hole for sling attachments on both sides. The arm brace, which is hard rubber with an

points of contact; front support hand, trigger hand, cheek on the tube or rail, and against your shoulder. There are many arm brace companies out there that make dozens of styles, as well as companies like Midwest Industries, which make a great line of adapters for folding or fixed braces. Find which one fits you and purchase accordingly.

I love the SB Tactical brace mentioned, but it does add almost two pounds to the gun. If I feel like lightening it up, the MAC-5 is enjoyable to shoot with just a loop sling attached to the sling swivel on the back of the end cap. A couple of years ago, my younger son Matthew bought me a TAC SIX Citadel single point loop sling, which has a spring loaded "claw," (byALLEN.com) for one of my AR-15 pistols. I love it. So much so that I bought another and that is what I tried on the MAC-5. If you never tried a loop sling, the idea is to adjust the circular sling to a length of pull you are comfortable with, and instead of pushing a stock into your shoulder, you simply put your arm through the loop, up to your shoulder, and push out to stabilize the firearm. It works great, and to the best of my knowledge,



The HKPDW brace from SB Tactical works well for what it was designed to do. If you like one-handed shooting semi-auto pistol versions of subguns, arm braces are the way to go. (Oleg Volk)



DeNiro really enjoys keeping the MAC-5 light and shooting with a loop sling.

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For the accuracy test, DeNiro chose Black Hills 115-grain FMJ, Federal Premium 135-grain Hydra-Shok HP, Federal 147-grain Syntech Training Match, and Hornady 115-grain Critical Defense FTX. (Vincent DeNiro)

The ETS magazines measured in at 33.70mm (average among six) and this slight difference stopped insertion. To correct this, I sanded down an almost square (21mm x 22mm) raised portion on the back of the magazine. It was raised high enough that I decided to use a bench grinder to get it off instead of sandpaper. If you've never ground down plastic with a machine (grinder, Dremel tool, etc.), be careful and use a medium speed setting with little pres-

sure or the polymer can melt. When I was finished, the ETS magazine measured in at 32.95 and it locked in perfectly and without any movement.

Range Time

BATFE has never pushed to outlaw one as it's not a stock in any sense of the word. From what I understand, sometime in the 1980s, the U.S. Navy SEALs started using end/butt caps on their MP5s with looped slings as this lightened the guns, was less cumbersome, and was faster at target acquisition from the low-ready position than using a stock in close quarters.

After shooting a bunch of Black Hills 115-grain FMJ rounds, I wanted to try out some magazines from Elite Tactical Systems (ETS). ETS manufactures magazines from a proprietary blend of high-impact polymer and offers a large amount of handgun models and AR-type rifles in various capacities. According to its website at ETSGroup.us, the magazines are also chemical-resistant (I'm assuming solvents and degreasers), resistant to damage by UV light, and can withstand extreme low and high temperatures. Magazines are available in solid black and clear/see-through polymer (as well as a line of AR mags manufactured with nylon).

I have used ETS 30-round AR-15 magazines as well as the ETS Glock magazines and never had a failure to feed from what I recall. However, no ETS MP5 magazine would insert more than one to 1.5 inches, and it took some force to get them in that far. Full insertion of an MP5 magazine is almost two inches. After discovering where the issue may be, I then measured the MKE magazine width from back to front (at the middle of the magazine catch recess) and it came out at 32.93mm. For reference, MERTSAV metal magazines lock up in the MAC-5 the same as HK metal magazines lock up in HK MP5s (the same with MKE and POF)—there are always small magazine variations regarding fit with a very slight wobble back and forth from front to back—this does not affect feeding at all. I also tried an early straight HK magazine, and this one had a little less wobble.

Target Time

Now, I was ready to do some accuracy testing.

For the accuracy test, I chose Black Hills 115-grain FMJ, Federal Premium 135-grain Hydra-Shok HP, Federal 147-grain Syntech Training Match, and Hornady 115-grain Critical Defense FTX. The test was conducted at 25 yards, shooting three five-shot groups of each ammunition type with the winner (best average of the three) taken out to 50 yards. I used a Caldwell (CaldwellShooting.com) Stinger rest on a Knothole Designs bench. My test scope was a Burris Fullfield 30 (BurrisOptics.com) set at 14 power and secured by a Geissele Super Precision (Geissele.com) scope mount bolted on to a Midwest Industries MP5 Top Rail M-LOK, which has a bit more "rail estate" (as Patrick Sweeney likes to say) than its other mount I tested. The temperature was 84 degrees with a zero to three-mile-an-hour wind.

First up at 25 yards was Black Hills 115-grain FMJ (Black-Hills.com). My first group came in at 2.22 inches with the best group coming in at 1.38 inches—only .87



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Federal Premium 135-grain Hydra-Shok had the best average at 25 yards so DeNiro took it out to 50 yards. The smallest group at 50 yards measured in at 1.86 inches. (Vincent DeNiro)

of an inch without the flier for that group. Second in line was Federal Premium 135-grain Hydra-Shok hollow point (FederalPremium.com). I carried 147-grain Hydra-Shoks 30 years ago as a deputy sheriff and always loved the accuracy. This Hydra-Shok projectile is different in design than the ones I've used in the past, with a stronger center post for deeper penetration and improved design with deeper cuts in the jacket for better expansion. All three groups were under an inch and a half with the best one at 1.34 inches. Without the flier on this one, it measured in at .74 of an inch. Third on the list was another from Federal in its 147-grain Syntech Training Match. The average of all three groups was 2.35 inches with the best being 1.69 inches. Syntech is a great round to use if you are training with steel targets, at closer distances, as there is no copper jacket to come back and strike you. I've seen this happen in person whereby a shooter had to go to the hospital for a pierced neck artery. Last on the list was Hornady's 115-grain Critical Defense FTX. This Flex Tip projectile was designed for consistent expansion—it certainly has a unique look (Hornady.com). Hornady shot the best group overall at 1.06 inches and had the only “cloverleaf” (three-round) group of the day at .49 of an inch. Impressive. However, the average group size was thrown off by my second group of 2.11 inches for a result of 1.61 inches. Federal's Hydra-Shok average group size for all three came in at 1.43 inches, so it was the winner to go out to 50 yards.

At 50 yards, I shot the first two groups at right about 2.6 inches, with the last group at 1.86 inches—I was happy about that. Without the flier, the third group came in at 1.41 inches. (For details, see the accuracy chart.)

Shooting at a torso-sized target offhand at this distance can be almost effortless.

Regarding ammo and this design, in my experience, it isn't a good idea to run very hot ammunition through MP5-type firearms. I have seen cocking tubes sheared off, at the receiver, after firing MP5s with a mix of Israeli “black tip” ammo (hot rounds designed for the heavy bolts UZIs) and very hot Hertenberger 9mm ammo, which was also manufactured for submachine guns with heavy bolts. So, I would definitely stay away from +P+ ammunition. If you are going to shoot reloads, watch your pressures. Speaking of reloads, I had planned to include a test of my “Vinnie's Special” 124-grain LTC (lead truncated cone) load but ended up “losing light” at the range as well as being short of ammo. This has been my cheap shooting-reload for 30 years, and I use four grains of Winchester 231 powder for it. Although mine felt much lighter than the other ammo tested as far as recoil impulse, all of them cycled just fine. Very-light loads that work well in MP5-type firearms may not cycle well, or at all, in most other closed-bolt versions of SMGs, due to heavy bolts and springs.

With all of this target shooting, I got reacquainted with MP5-type triggers, although I still shoot my C93 rifle from time to time (this is a Century Arms-built HK93-type rifle made with surplus HK33 parts). There are a lot of “trigger whiners” out there complaining about “crappy” HK-type triggers in this design series. Although I like match-grade drop-in trigger groups of recent years (Midwest Industries 3.5-pound being one of my favorites, along with ones from Timney), I've learned to shoot creepy six- to eight-pound GI AR triggers (and just plain bad AR and M16 triggers),

MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION MAC-5 PISTOL				
Manufacturer	Weight (gr.)	Type	Average (in.)	Best (in.)
25 YARDS - THREE FIVE-SHOT GROUPS				
Black Hills	115	FMJ	1.95	1.38
Federal Premium Hydra-Shok	135	HP	1.43	1.34
Federal Syntech Training Match	147	SYNT	2.35	1.69
Hornady Critical Defense	115	FTX	1.61	1.06
ABOVE 25-YARD GROUPS WITHOUT FLIERS				
Black Hills	115	FMJ	1.22	0.87
Federal Premium Hydra-Shok	135	HP	0.92	0.74
Federal Syntech Training Match	147	SYNT	1.59	1.07
Hornady Critical Defense	115	FTX	1.26	1.01
50 YARDS - THREE FIVE-SHOT GROUPS				
Federal Premium Hydra-Shok	135	HP	2.38	1.86
ABOVE 50-YARD GROUPS WITHOUT FLIERS				
Federal Premium Hydra-Shok	135	HP	1.85	1.41
Burris Fullfield 30 scope set to 14x for all shots. Fired from bench with Caldwell rest. Conditions: 0-3 MPH wind, 84 degrees.				

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Once you know how, the MAC-5 is easy to disassemble for routine cleaning. (Vincent DeNiro)

effectively over the past 46 years. The HK-type trigger is just different, but it's easy to learn to shoot well just the way it is out of the box. The smooth spring take-up on the trigger is about 1/4 of an inch, followed by a little creep of about 2/16th of an inch before the hammer drops. Reset occurs at about 5/16th of an inch on the return. This MAC-5 trigger tested at 4.5 pounds. What is there to complain about?

Disassembly

With your finger not touching the trigger, point the firearm in a safe direction and place selector on safe (if it isn't already), then remove magazine. Pull back the charging handle all the way to the rear with your non-shooting hand and inspect the chamber for any stuck live round. If clear, return the charging handle forward which will also return the bolt carrier. You can lock the bolt handle back by lifting it up into the channel on the cocking tube, but this will cause an issue with the following step. Push the end/butt cap retaining pin all the way in and remove it while holding the butt cap in place—using a table to rest the MAC-5 on will help with this. You will feel the tension of the recoil spring, so slowly back the butt cap off of the receiver and grip assembly. Had the charging handle been locked back, the butt cap would have been under a lot more pressure making it harder to remove the retaining pin and possibly causing the butt cap to go flying. I have done this both ways, but charging handle forward is the best way unless a live round is stuck in the chamber. The recoil spring and guide rod will be sticking out of the gun and the grip assembly will have dropped down about an inch. Now, remove the retaining pin at the front of the grip assembly and remove the grip assembly. Grab the spring and guide rod and pull it and the entire bolt carrier assembly out of the back of the receiver. You are ready to clean. Reverse steps for assembly.

I would caution against any further disassembly as it's really not needed for general maintenance, with the exception

of learning how to remove the bolt from the carrier. This is something you should learn at some point, but if cleaning guns isn't your bag, Gun Scrubber spray will be your best friend.

When I was on the set of *Rogue Force*, we had a “down day” in which there weren't any action gun-fire scenes being filmed. So, during this time, I cleaned all of the converted HK94s/MP5s and completely tore them apart. I disassembled the entire grip assembly, including removing all the fire-control parts (like 15 of them) from the trigger housing. I also took the entire bolt assembly apart, almost 30 parts. As stated, these were movie guns rented from Stenbridge, which

could have easily been used in hundreds of movies and TV shows over the years. Blanks are dirty and these needed a tune up. I'm at armorer level with MP5s, so I could do the work. If you want to learn how to tear one apart completely, I encourage you to learn, but be careful with the small parts and take your time.

Practical Use Beyond Collecting and Having Fun

For home defense, use by private security companies, and police departments, the intimidation factor can be key in deescalating or preventing a dangerous situation. Having a firearm that looks like a machine gun does that. I have written in the past that when I was working as a deputy sheriff, courthouse security was increased when high-level drug gang cases were in process. We would have threats coming in regarding not only key witnesses, but government officials as well. A deputy with a MAC-5 front



The cleaning kit includes a bore-swab tip, two bore brushes (nylon and brass), metal cleaning rod, and its case doubles as a handle. (Vincent DeNiro)

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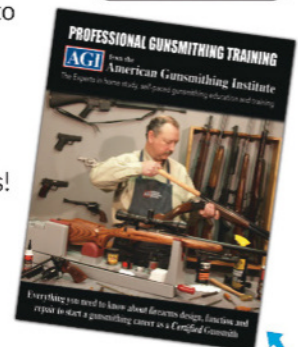
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The MAC-5 at low ready. Much more intimidating than a traditional handgun in a hip holster, and that can prevent a violent incident from ever happening, which is a good thing. (Oleg Volk)

and center is far scarier to a criminal than just a holstered pistol. The other issue is accuracy and being able to hit targets at greater distances due to double the barrel length as well as the use of braces. In a large courthouse, a 50-yard shot is not uncommon. The same applies to security guards and home defense. There are also the complications with the 1934 NFA: its red tape many readers here are very well aware of, along with restrictions on traveling out of state. However, many have no idea that the penalties of using any NFA firearm in a violent crime (even a misdemeanor), can carry a penalty of 30 years in prison. So, if your self-defense actions were not as black and white, and you end up with a misdemeanor menacing with a firearm or assault with a firearm conviction, a federal prosecutor could step in and charge you with a federal felony. The last advantage I will discuss is that the MAC-5 can be carried in most states just like any other handgun. Under Constitutional carry or with a concealed carry permit, if you would feel the need for this type of firearm, you can carry it without any issues at the federal level. So, let's take a look at which accessories I used to enhance the MAC-5.

Optics

There are many low-cost to high-cost dot optics out there. So, if you just want to have fun at the range playing "Week-end Rambo" and are on a tight budget, go for one at the



Home invasions and break-ins are at an all-time high in most American cities. A MAC-5 with effective accessory enhancements can easily surpass the effectiveness of a traditional handgun for defense of family and property.

50-bucks price point. I received for review the ACRO C-2 manufactured by Aimpoint (Aimpoint.us). It was designed to be compact, rugged, and can be used on pistols, submachine guns, carbines, and rifles. If you ever have a chance to hear a presentation about Aimpoint's testing procedures, it is very impressive (and I worked for major firearms and defense companies over many years, so I have heard a lot of them). I have used Aimpoint dot optics since the 1980s, and the company has been the leader innovating this technology for many decades. I have an astigmatism which will blur and distort a dot—I have almost no visual issues with Aimpoint's optics, unlike some other manufacturer's optics. (See James Tarr's column about the ACRO's development in this issue.)

The military-grade ACRO C-2 weighs only 2.2 ounces (with battery) and has size dimensions of between 1.2 and 1.9 inches. A red dot is produced in an anti-reflex coated window with a size of 15mm square. The dot measures in at 2.5 inches at 100 yards and is adjusted with 10 intensity settings, the first two of which are for night vision use. It is powered by a common CR2032 battery, which lasts 50,000 hours (room temperature at setting six). It also comes with a multi-function tool for the optic. I like it a lot. It's clear and fast on the range.

Aimpoint sent this one with a high-quality Scalarworks (Scalarworks.com) mount designated the LEAP/03. This is a precision-made mount manufactured with 7075-T6 aluminum and weighing in at 1.6 ounces (and the box it came in was nicer than boxes of jewelry I've purchased). It is also a quick-detach type using a unique design named ClickDrive, which is positively attached and removed by turning a wheel with a ball bearing-tightening/loosening mechanism. Now, many may say that the mount is way too high. Well, high mounts are fine with me—instead of using a cheek weld, use a jaw weld and adapt. (Quick-detach



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HK claw mounts are also quite high.) Sure, I would prefer that the optic was lower, however, if it were, I wouldn't be able to use the iron sights well or at all. Being able to use both a dot optic (or magnified optic for that matter) AND the iron sights give the shooter options. One option is that I can sight my irons for 25 yards and then sight in the ACRO C-2 for 50, 75, or 100 yards. The other option is that if the dot optic's glass gets damaged somehow in a shootout, I can immediately go to the iron sights. I like options, because s#it happens.

The Scalarworks mount is great, but it doesn't grab the top of the MAC-5's receiver. That's where Midwest Industries (MidwestIndustriesInc.com) came in with the MP5 P-Rail Mount (sku: MI-MP5-OR). At 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, it is perfect for mounting dot optics and even small scopes. It leveled perfectly on the stamped receiver and locked down solidly. I will say that it is a bit tricky to mount and tighten the four lugs that secure the mount, but after a few times, I got the hang of it. Also, it is very important not to overtighten these screws and Midwest recommends only 20 pounds of torque. I used a Wheeler F.A.T. Wrench with adjustable torque (WheelerTools.com). This mount worked as well as the longer one used in my accuracy test.

White Light

From the first time I saw *Omega Man* starring Charlton Heston in the 1970s, with his flashlight-equipped S&W 76 SMG, I have always liked the idea of flashlights on guns. Although there was a production gun with a built-in flashlight as far back as the 1970s, the Hi-Standard Model 10A bullpup 12-gauge shotgun, Surefire (Surefire.com) really perfected an accessory which works just as if its engineers also designed the gun. As seen in the photos of *The Prodigy* movie, I installed a first-generation Surefire MP5 forend on the main character's MKE MP5. It was back in 2001, so this early model didn't have an LED bulb like the 7,600-lumens white light installed in the 328LMF-B reviewed in this article, but the old model was bright and performed very well. The 328LMF-B features a rocker-type switch on the left front side of the forend for sustained light, and a pressure switch on the right side. The flashlight's bezel is 1.13 inches and is powered by one 123A



DeNiro used a Wheeler F.A.T. Wrench to tighten the bolts at 20 pounds of torque on the Midwest Industries MP5 rail mount.

lithium battery, which will provide one hour of sustained light. The 7,600-power will illuminate out to 175 meters—it certainly lit up my property easily out to 75 yards where the tree line begins. The forend is constructed of high-impact polymer, is a little over eight inches, and weighs in at only 9.6 ounces with battery installed. The fit is perfect.

However, one issue I had, was that the attachment hole in the Surefire forend light did not line up with the mounting bracket's hole on the MAC-5 when the flash hider was installed. My photographer, Oleg Volk, also had another MAC-5 along with another 328LMF-B, and his would not line up with the flash hider installed either. Very close, but the retaining pin would not fit. We rectified this quickly by installing a binding post bolt (Ace Hardware sku 3832-K) that has a diameter of 5mm, a tad less than the forend retaining pin's diameter of 6mm. This caused the front of the forend to drop around one degree, so it didn't affect performance at all. The original Surefire forend light model had no issue with the flash hider-equipped MKE MP5 I used it on 20 years ago, and I have no other MP5-type firearms on hand to try out, so I'm not sure where the issue is. There was no issue when I attached a suppressor. A bit of advice, be cautious when using weaponlights, you don't use them exactly as you would use any flashlight, because you will be aiming a firearm at whatever you are pointing the light.



Midwest Industries has different styles of MP5 handguards to choose from. If you need extra space for your favorite accessories, this one will work. (Vincent DeNiro)



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DeNiro firing the MAC-5 loaded with accessories (home defense configuration), including a Gemtech GM-9 suppressor and a 40-round ETS magazine, which functioned perfectly and was easy to load, all the way to the last round.

Save Your Ears

The report of guns firing inside of buildings not only can damage hearing but can also seriously distract one during a time when losing concentration could lead to death. The Gemtech GM-9 is a great example of a lightweight and small suppressor. Although it was not rated for full-auto fire, small and lightweight suppressors of this type, like its replacement in the Gemtech Lunar-9, would be a perfect fit for the MAC-5 for home defense (Gemtech.com). (See Patrick Sweeney’s column on the GM-9 in this issue).

Firepower

Magpul (Magpul.com) offers a 50-round MP5 drum magazine if you have a desire for 50 rounds of continuous fire without reloading (see closing statement). It has the quality Magpul is known for and features a window in which the shooter can have an idea of how many rounds remain. It can also be disassembled for maintenance. Magpul also offers other MP5 accessories like a retractable arm brace, retractable stock, forends, and a grip assembly housing—all made in the U.S.A.



Magpul offers a 50-round MP5 drum if you have a desire for 50 rounds of continuous fire without reloading. (Magpul)

The Jury Has Returned

I really like the MAC-5, but there are a couple of things I want to mention about the design of firearms of this type. I have large hands, but it’s still a stretch to push the mag-release button with my trigger finger. So, the paddle is a nice upgrade. Some mags will drop free, but that depends on the mags (both 30-round magazines provided with the MAC-5 did drop free). In a pile of metal mags, some will, and some won’t. However, if you are using a dual mag holder or just using the paddle mag-release lever, the thumb of your non-trigger hand naturally presses the lever while the other four fingers grab the empty magazine to pull it out. This leads to the issue of no last-round bolt hold-open feature. Every modern-design rifle in the last couple of decades has not only this feature but also a lever to drop the bolt. This feature and drop-free mags are what makes for fast reloads (or a ton of practice), an advantage that Colt AR-type subguns always had over the HK MP5. Not a deal killer.

I experienced zero malfunctions with this firearm. Zeee-row. I also worked in the defense industry for over 15 years, and I will say that Turkish defense companies are very well respected amongst their peers at every defense trade they attend. The MAC-5, manufactured by Mertsav for Military Armament Corporation is, in my opinion, as good, or better in some aspects, performance-wise and in overall quality, when compared to all other manufacturers of MP5-type firearms. **TN**

MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION MAC-5 PISTOL	
Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Capacity:	10–100 rds., any MP5-type magazine
Weight:	5.5 lbs.
Overall Length:	17.9 in.
Barrel:	8.9 in. button-rifled, 1:10 twist, 4140, chrome-lined, fluted chamber, with QD 3-lug
Muzzle Thread:	½ x 28
Muzzle Device:	Removeable 3-lug flash hider
Sights:	4-position diopter, fully adj. (rear), front blade
Furniture:	High-impact polymer, glass-filled reinforced polymer (grip assembly)
Trigger Pull:	4.5 lbs. (as tested)
Finish:	Lacquer paint over manganese phosphate
Accessories Incl.:	Plastic foam-lined case, two 30-rd. magazines, cleaning kit, tri-lug flash-hider, trigger lock, and instruction manual.
MSRP:	\$1,099
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The Carry Comp is the S&W Performance Center's modestly tricked-out version of the Shield Plus, sporting unique slide serrations and a ported four-inch barrel.

SMITH & WESSON'S PERFORMANCE CENTER CARRY COMP SHIELD PLUS PISTOL

Back to the Future!

By James Tarr

Let me run down the specifics of this new model, and Smith & Wesson's entirely new Performance Center Carry Comp® line. Then, I want to take some time going over the history of “carry comps,” which date back at least to the 1980s (and there's an interesting backstory to that “®” in the Carry Comp name), and explain how this pistol, neat as it is, despite the name, probably, technically, doesn't even qualify as a carry comp.

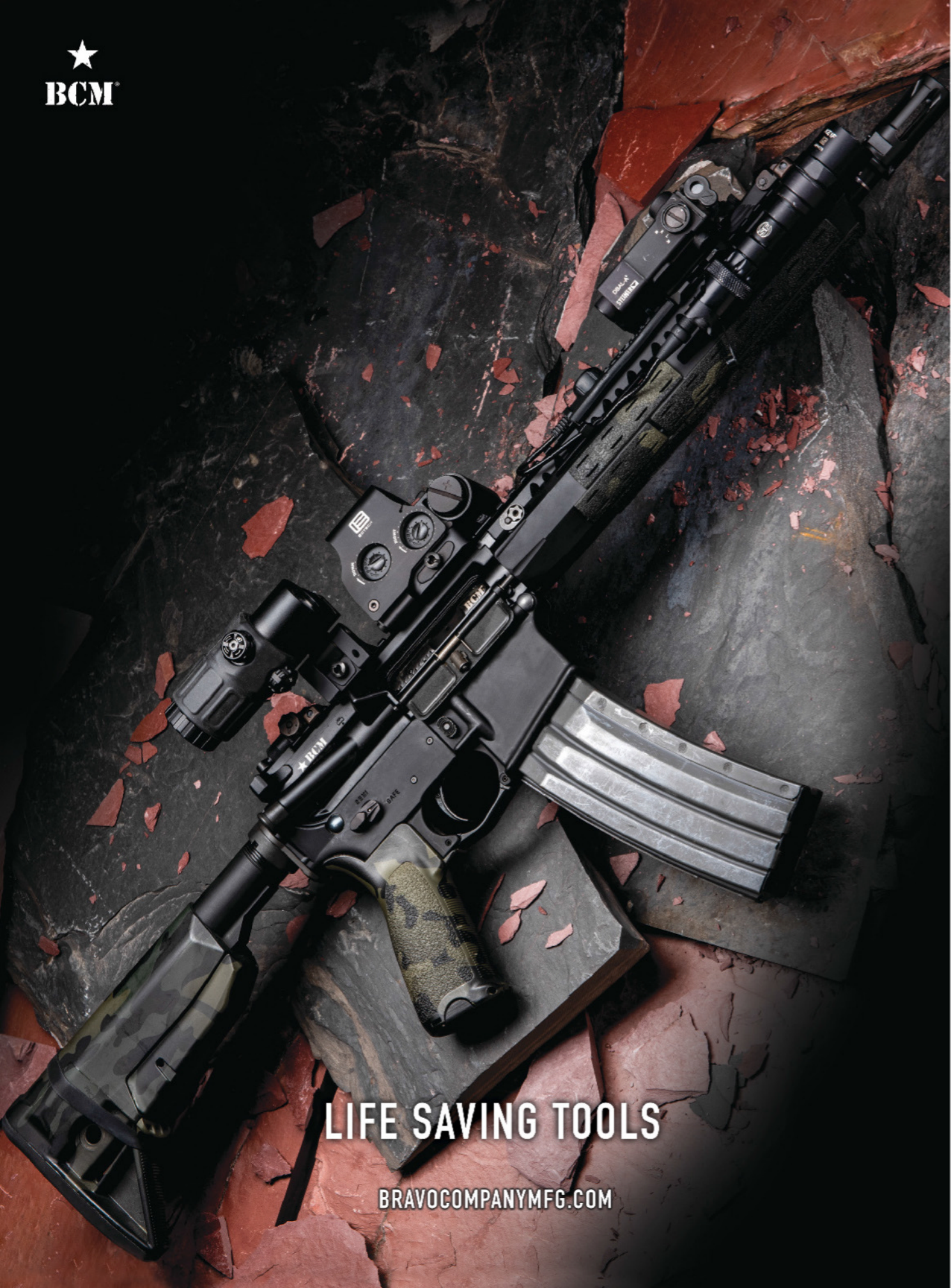
Smith & Wesson has just introduced their Carry Comp line of pistols, which currently includes three models: a full-size metal-framed M&P, a compact M&P, and a Shield Plus model, which is what I got in for testing. These pistols are put out by Smith & Wesson's Performance Center, which produces “factory custom” pistols with unique/improved features when compared to standard catalog items.



The Shield Plus Carry Comp has slide cutouts in addition to the barrel porting for a very distinctive look. Here it has a 13-round magazine inserted.



From the side, the Shield Plus Carry Comp looks a bit bigger as it is, because this angle doesn't show off how thin the pistol is.



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The four-inch Shield Plus Carry Comp on the right compared to an original first-gen Shield. The flush magazine on the Shield holds seven rounds, on the Shield Plus it holds 10.



The first thing you'll see is that S&W definitely wants you to know these pistols are something different. They have aggressive and unique slide texturing and cutouts that set them apart from standard M&P, and they are all optics ready.

Let's start back at the beginning. One of the first big media junkets I was ever invited to was Smith & Wesson's rollout of the original M&P Shield in 2012. We beat and abused those guns for two days, and at the end, all of us were sold on the Shield.

The M&P Shield was a small, concealable 9mm with a 3.1-inch barrel, built to the same tough standards as the full-size M&P and fed by flush seven- or extended eight-round magazines. It hovers somewhere between a subcompact and compact in size, durable, reliable, concealable, and shootable. It has been a huge success for S&W, and there are now I-don't-know-how-many versions and variations of the Shield, from the easy-to-rack .380 ACP EZ to the tricked-out semi-custom Performance Center models.

In 2021, S&W introduced the Shield Plus, and honestly, if the market wasn't already saturated with small 9mms, the Shield Plus probably would have been crowned king of carry guns. The original Shield Plus is otherwise identical to the original Shield but fed by flush 10-round and extended 13-round magazines. That's a huge increase in capacity, but perhaps even just as impressive is the fact that the grip of the Shield Plus is only one-tenth of an inch thicker than that of the original Shield. This is possible because the original Shield was not fed by a single-column magazine. Instead, the original Shield magazine could best be described as a "column and a half" in width for most of its length, narrowing to a single position feed at the top. Its increased girth allowed for a bit more room for cartridges and upped the Shield's capacity (when compared to similarly sized pistols) by a round or so. Comparing a Shield to a Shield Plus, side by side, you can't see the size difference, and in fact can barely even feel it in your hand.

Personally, I think S&W's Shield Plus is one of the best guns on the market...that nobody pays attention to. If it was introduced ten years earlier it would have won every "gun of the year" award out there, but because we

► **The Shield magazine (right) held more rounds than expected for its length because it wasn't a true single column. The double-stack Shield plus mag on the left ups the capacity from seven to ten.**



live in the golden era of carry guns, it just tends to get lost in the background noise.

The Performance Center Carry Comp version of the Shield Plus is built on the longer version of the pistol with a four-inch barrel. This is a polymer-framed striker-fired pistol, and currently only is available in 9mm. The original Shield wasn't really a pocket gun, and with its four-inch barrel, the Carry Comp Shield Plus (whether or not it sports an extended magazine) is a mid-size pistol that requires a holster for proper carry.

The original Shield and all the subsequent models are all built tough enough for duty use, and you'll see both the slide and the barrel of the Carry Comp Shield Plus are stainless steel with an Armornite finish—barrel black, slide gray—S&W's version of nitride.

Unlike the larger, full-sized M&Ps, the Shield does not offer interchangeable backstraps. The frame is slender, increasing concealability, and it feels good in the hand. Built for concealability, the controls are low profile, and there's no frame rail on this model. With this pistol you get the flat Performance Center trigger with integral safety

► **Smith & Wesson has a complete Carry Comp series of pistols. From left: the four-inch Shield Plus, the Compact M&P, and the metal-framed full-size M&P.**





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The front sight is set back half an inch to make room for the "Power Port" in the barrel/slide. The cutouts on the side of the slide are for aesthetics, the only barrel port is at the top.



Tarr preferred the 13-round magazine as it allowed him to get his whole hand on the gun, provided decent capacity, was still concealable, and offered a good size balance with the barrel length.



You also get a cleaning kit with this Performance Center pistol, in addition to the three magazines.



While it has "comp" in the name, in fact there's no compensator on the Shield Plus, just a large port in the barrel, with a corresponding hole in the slide. And this is what they look like after you've been having a bit of fun at the range.



The Performance Center Shield Plus Carry Comp ships with three magazines—a flush 10-rounder (inserted), an extended 13-rounder, and a very extended 15-rounder. The grip extensions feature the same texturing as the frame.

lever. Trigger pull on my sample was an unremarkable, but unobjectionable, 5.5 pounds.

The texturing on the grip is very aggressive, and you get the same texturing on the grip extensions on the longer magazines. Most people will struggle to get all their fingers on the gun with the flush magazine in place. The extended 13-rounder will probably be all you need to get your whole hand comfortably on the gun, and if not, you've got the big 15-rounder as well. But this isn't a tiny gun to begin with, and when you stick that 15-rounder in the gun it's taller than a full-size Glock 17.

With this Performance Center pistol, you get very distinctive flat-bottomed wavy slide serrations that go up over the top of the slide in front. They don't just look good, they are functional.

At the rear of the slide, you'll see a plastic plate, and here we get to a bit of an irritation for me. S&W has their Competition Optic Ready Equipment (C.O.R.E.) pistols. M&P C.O.R.E. pistols ship with seven different optics adapter plates which allow you to mount the red dot of your choice to the pistol. With the Performance Center Shield Plus Carry Comp, it is optics ready, but you get no adapter plates. It appears Smith & Wesson believes every member of the general public already knows the Shield Plus slide is cut

for direct mounting of optics using the Shield RMSc footprint, as there's no explanation of that either on the product page of their website or in the owner's manual. But that's what you get.

With this pistol you get three magazines. It is shipped with one flush 10-, one extended 13-, and one very extended 15-round magazine, as well as a Performance Center Cleaning Kit.

Both front and rear sights are steel and dovetailed into place. The rear sight is plain black and serrated, with a generous U-shaped notch. The front sight is a great day/night model—a

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glow-in-the-dark tritium insert surrounded by a dayglo green ring. Together, the combo is visible in any light. The front sight is set back from the muzzle almost exactly half an inch, to make room for what S&W calls their Power Port™, the reason the pistols in this line are given the name Carry Comp. And therein lies a story.

I've written before how manufacturers tend to play fast-and-loose with words in the firearms industry. Guns far too big to fit in a pocket are somehow labeled "micro-compacts." In fact, S&W continues to say the Shield Plus has a "micro compact" frame, even though this gun, overall, is a midsize. So, understand that my comments here reflect what I'll call "common usage" of certain terms.

"Carry Comp," as in compensator. Traditionally, a compensator is something attached to the end of a barrel/gun to reduce muzzle rise and felt recoil. Also, traditionally, a compensator has an expansion chamber, and then at least one if not multiple ports to redirect the expanding gases. The expansion chamber increases the performance of those ports. A compensator has ports, but a port is not a compensator.

With S&W's Carry Comps what you get is a ported barrel, with a corresponding hole in the slide. It's a big single port, but it's still just a ported barrel. Those holes in the side of the slide are just for looks. Yes, I know some firearm manufacturers have, over the years, offered factory ported barrel versions and slapped a "C" suffix on the name (for compensated) but I respectfully disagree. Even S&W, with their previous models sporting barrel ports, has only ever called them ported guns.

However, S&W doesn't just call them "carry comps," they've slapped that R-for-Registered Trademark on the Carry Comp® name. Which is interesting, and I thought it might be problematic, because people have been making carry comps, and using the term "carry comp" to describe them, since at least the 1980s. I did some research and learned S&W in fact trademarked the term "Carry Comp" in 1998, recently renewing that trademark. I know a couple of custom 1911 gunsmiths who actually build what they call carry comps, and S&W's trademark was news to them, so I'm glad to see S&W hasn't been litigious in defending it.

The term "carry comp" is used to indicate a compensated pistol that is built and intended for carry, as opposed to



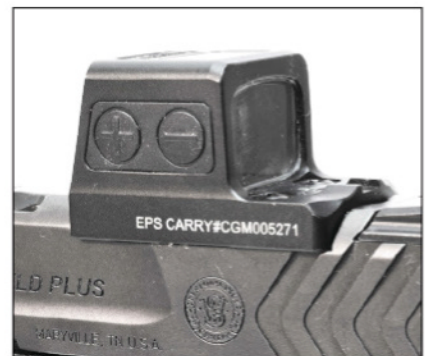
The front sight is a day/night model, sporting a highly visible green ring around a tritium insert. Note how the slide serrations wrap over the top.



The rear sight is a plain black U-notch—simple, but effective, and it doesn't pull your eye away from the all-important front sight.



▲ The Shield Plus Carry Comp is optics ready—the slide is cut to accept red dots using the RMSc footprint.



► For a bit of his testing, Tarr mounted a Holosun EPS Carry to the Shield Plus.



► The controls of the Shield Plus are low profile, perfect for a concealed carry piece. The trigger is a Performance Center model with less of a curve than the standard M&P trigger.

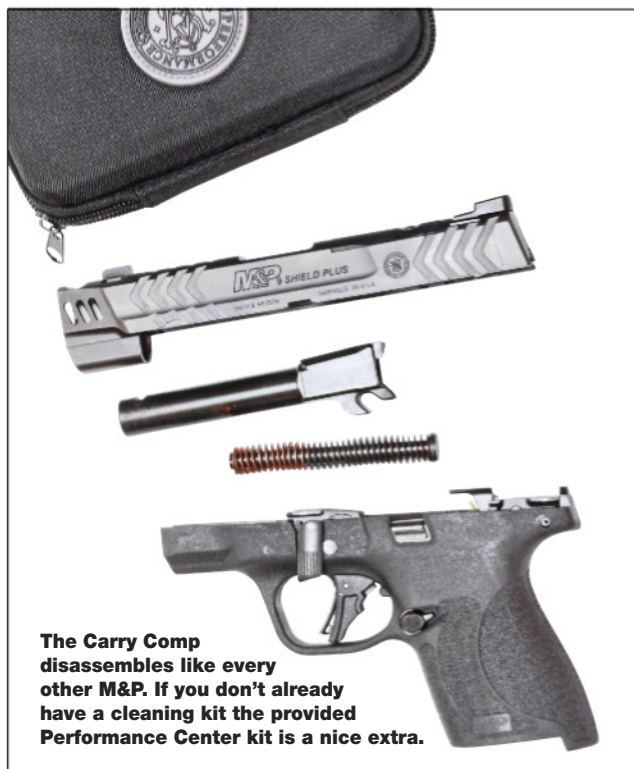


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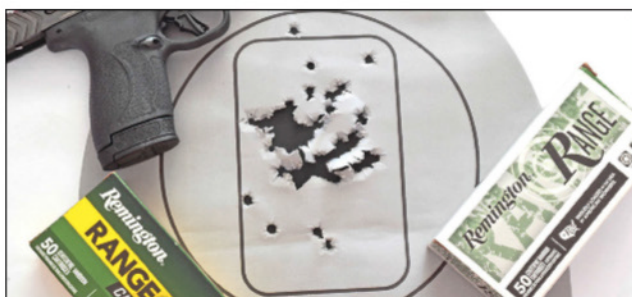
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The Carry Comp disassembles like every other M&P. If you don't already have a cleaning kit the provided Performance Center kit is a nice extra.



Tarr tried the Shield Plus Carry Comp in the N8 Tactical Multi-Flex Holster (small) and it worked perfectly. Also, strangely, it seemed to fit just right into a Galco Yaqui slide meant for a 1911. The four-inch Shield Plus will fit into any open-ended holster meant for a Shield.



The first 50 rounds through the PC Shield Plus Carry Comp, mixed Remington Range Ammo, quick fire at seven yards. The port reduced muzzle rise a bit.

competition where size and weight aren't a factor. The original carry comps were almost all built on custom 1911s, most of them chambered in .45 ACP. They generally started out as Commanders with a 4¼-inch barrel, then a comp (usually profiled to match the slide) was threaded onto the barrel to bring them out to the length of a five-inch Government Model. They're still around, but they've faded from the public consciousness for a number of reasons:

1. They had to be custom-made by a gunsmith, so they were expensive.
2. They were inherently less reliable. You're adding weight to the barrel and redirecting recoil forces. Definitely needed gunsmith tuning.
3. For all the added cost and possibly impaired reliability, those comps didn't do much. In part, because a lot of them were on .45s. The .45 ACP is a low-pressure round, and comps/ports work better with higher pressure. Most modern comped/ported guns are chambered in 9mm, which operates at a higher pressure than .45 ACP.

A compensator meant for a carry gun has to be some balance of size and performance—big enough to actually provide some recoil reduction, while not so big it compromises concealability—or reliability, because if you vent too much of those gases up through the comp there's less force going straight back to work the slide. Most modern comps on 9mm carry guns reduce muzzle rise 15–25%.

Even in an uncomped/unported gun, the muzzle of that gun is down out of recoil before you're ready to pull the trigger. So why is it "easier" to shoot a gun with a muzzle brake? Because there is less disturbance to the sight picture. You spend less time reacquiring your sights. And that is exactly why carry comps are suddenly all the rage everywhere—because of all the red dots now atop carry guns.

There is a major disadvantage that all the proponents of red dots on carry guns ignore—most shooters are no faster when using a red dot-sighted pistol at realistic defensive distances, and many are a bit slower, in large part because they keep losing the dot in the window, either before firing their first shots or after.

Perhaps even more than electronics and mount failures, this is the biggest issue with running a red dot—losing it in the window, thus slowing you down. How do I know? Because of all the compensators I'm seeing on red dot-wearing carry guns.

If losing the dot wasn't a widespread problem, nobody would be running comps on their guns. The sole purpose of compensators is to reduce the disturbance to your sight picture. The very first people I saw running modern carry comps were the trainers pushing red dot-sighted carry guns. (Well...pushing their classes on how to use them,

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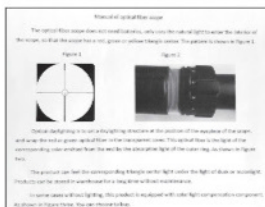


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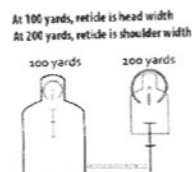


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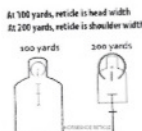


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Black Hills EXP JHP	115	1,116	25	11	2.6 / 3.1
Hornady Am. Gunner XTP	124	1,050	28	14	2.5 / 3.4
Federal Syntech Action Pistol	150	854	33	17	2.7 / 3.7
Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.					

actually. Follow the money.) Because even those pros kept losing their dots. Cause and effect, baby.

If you've ever been at a range watching people shoot red dot-equipped pistols, you've seen the same thing, someone wiggling their optic-equipped pistol around, trying to find the dot. Or you've done it yourself. I'm not saying don't put a red dot on your carry gun. I'm just saying don't lie to yourself and pretend there are no negatives to that decision [EDITOR'S NOTE: "I'm Vince DeNiro and approve this message."].

Optics aside, carry comps (even if they're just ported, like this gun) are neat. They will reduce your muzzle rise. With modern improvements they are just as reliable as you need. And if you're running an optic atop your carry gun, you'll definitely like the reduced muzzle rise provided by a comp/port, as it will shorten the amount of time you spend trying to find your lost dot.

The Shield is a proven design, so the only question I had was whether the port siphoning off some of the recoil forces would affect reliability with lighter loads. Especially since the recoil spring in the gun felt quite robust, but the Shield Plus Carry Comp ran like a champ. I tried to choke it by feeding it a wide variety of ammo, sometimes all mixed up in the same magazine, and nothing could stop it. For accuracy testing, I mounted a Holosun to the slide, but for my speed work I used the provided front sight. That big green dot bouncing up and down was easy to follow and fast to use.

While the Shield is slender, it's basically a mid-size pistol in this form, with good grip texturing and a ported barrel, so shooting it was fun, not a chore. I found I preferred shooting it with the 13-round magazine in place. Not only could I get all my fingers comfortably on the gun, but aesthetically that magazine looks best paired with that longer four-inch barrel.

Comps/ported barrels are louder, and you'll especially notice that when shooting indoors. I didn't have an otherwise-identical pistol to compare this gun too, but the muzzle rise did seem to definitely be flatter than with

a standard unported pistol. Previously shooting/testing otherwise identical 3.1-inch barreled Shields (ported versus otherwise), I've noticed the porting reduces muzzle rise about 20%. With this pistol, indoors I got a tiny barely detectable bit of flash with certain loads, but outdoors I couldn't see it at all.

The original Shield shot like a larger gun than it was, and the Performance Center Shield Plus Carry Comp does the same—it shoots darn near like a full-size handgun, and has nearly the capacity to match, while being thinner, and easier to conceal. Whether I was punching paper or knocking down steel it ran great. Compensated/ported pistols capable of mounting red dots are what's in these days, and this pistol gives you that, with unique looks, for a reasonable competitive price. **FN**

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Straight-wall rifle cartridges for hunting are hot. AR-15s are hot. So, why not combine the two? Well, for a long time that meant really hard thumpers like the 450 Bushmaster, and that's no fun (if you don't like recoil). The 350 Legend makes the experience more fun.

LWRCI now offers their DI (direct impingement) series with their IC (Individual Carbine) upper, and the full package is handy, reliable, accurate, and meets the regs for the DNR in locales where straight-wall cartridges are needed to hunt more restricted game, like deer.

The upper is their IC Monoforge upper, which is a forged upper receiver, but one with a forward extension on it, one that allows LWRCI to bolt on their free-float handguard. The handguard fits over the extension of the upper receiver and

then is secured with eight stout bolts. The result is a slim package, but one that is bridge-girder strong. The top is a pic rail that extends full length, and the handguard has M-LOK slots at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions—plenty of room for optics, slings, and whatever.

Inside is a cold-hammer-forged barrel in 350 Legend, instead of the expected 5.56 or .300 Blackout. The barrel is 16.1-inches long, and has been Ni-Corr treated, as well as the gas block getting the same tough surface treatment. The barrel is threaded at the muzzle (9/16x24), so you have all



The LWRCI .350 Legend looks like just another AR-15, albeit a really classy one.

LWRCI'S

350

By Patrick Sweeney

LEGEND

Straight-Wall Hunting AR-Type Rifle

the options for flash hiders, muzzle brakes or suppressors. The carrier has several features that stand out. First, it isn't the usual 1950s alloy, but a modern alloy usually found in racecars. Then, it is plated with a slick, easy to clean and corrosion-resistant nickel boron plating, so your life is easier. Then, there's the gas system. LWRCI made their bones with piston driven ARs. To use a piston, the AR carrier needs a thrust shoulder on the top. So LWRCI made that an integral part of the carrier, not a bolted-on addition.

Well, to make a DI carrier, they bore out the thrust shoulder, and screw in a gas tube spigot. That spigot is then cross pinned to keep it in place. This does two things. First, the problem of gas leakage in the carrier/key interface is now gone. Far too many AR-15s still leave the factory with a gas

key not tight, nor not staked. The LWRCI needs no staking, it is built in. And second, if your gas key spigot gets worn, or damaged in use (you know, dropping things) you can drive out the pin, unscrew the spigot, screw in a replacement, and drive the pin back in. This is the sort of thing that the government if they had actually been upgrading the M16/M4 all this time, would have adopted. (Don't get me started.)

The carrier gets machined with flats on it, to give crud more clearance and stay out of the way. Inside, the bolt is (of course) shot-peened, pressure-tested, and given a tough black surface treatment. The carrier is moved to charge the rifle or clear it by the LWRCI ambi charging handle.

The lower is also forged, but LWRCI machines it to be an ambi lower. The selector has levers on both sides, as also the magazine catch and bolt catch. Lefties will have no problems



On the left side, you can see the ambi controls, which is not what your average AR-15 has.



The upper is clearly marked as to the caliber it is chambered in. Good to have, because we all have multiple ARs, right?



The ambi control on the left side is the magazine release, seen here just below the standard bolt catch. Also, note the trigger guard: plenty of room for a gloved trigger finger here.

with this rifle, and if you aren't accustomed to all-ambi controls, then the regular ones are right where you expect them to be and work as normal. The lower on this rifle was marked "5.56mm NATO" but the upper bore the caliber marking of "350 Legend." Of the two, the caliber marking is more prominent, so should you happen to have otherwise identical LWRCI rifles in the rack, the caliber marking on the upper should catch your eye and tell the tale.

Inside the lower, LWRCI installed a standard-appearing fire control set, a single-stage hammer and trigger, but one with a nickel-boron coating. Despite being USGI-



Here you can see the ambi controls. There's the selector lever, the standard magazine release, and an added bolt release just below the case deflector.

► The pistol grip is non-slip and has a storage compartment for a battery and tools.



▼ The compact stock on the LWRCI IC-DI. It has plenty-enough area on the buttplate, and a very comfortable cheek rest area. Plus, there's a QD sling socket in there as well.



appearing parts, the trigger pull was much better than that. While it wasn't quite up to what a High Power shooter might want, it is as good as or even better than a lot of deer-blind rifles you'd see in hunting season. I had no problems with it and were this to stay here I would most likely not change it, it is plenty good enough.

The stock is the LWRCI compact adjustable stock. It slides back and forth like your standard M4gery, but the top is angled to provide a better cheek weld, and the buttplate is more compact. In this instance, it would be less likely to get hung up on a hunting jacket or blaze orange vest than a bigger buttplate might. It rides on a six-position mil-spec



The LWRCI Monoforge upper has an extra portion on the upper receiver, and the free-float handguard bolts to the receiver, and not merely clamping around the barrel nut.

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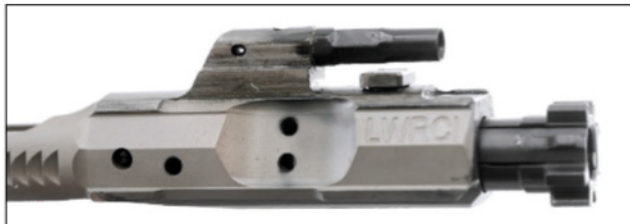
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The .350 Legend is threaded at the muzzle so you can mount a suppressor or muzzle brake if you wish.



The gas "key" is machined out of the thrust shoulder of a piston carrier, and the spigot is threaded in and then cross-pinned. No leakage, and if it wears, it is easily replaced.



The angled hand grip comes standard, and the rail covers were installed when the LWRCI arrived here.

► The Duramag magazine is stainless steel and black oxide treated.



diameter buffer tube, and inside LWRCI has installed an H2 buffer and mil-spec carbine spring.

Now, the standard LWRCI IC-DI comes in your basic black Type III hard-coat anodizing, and lacking sights. The one sent here was done up in Flat Dark Earth, which is a modest bump up in price and one of the four Cera-kote colors you can select, applied in-house. It also came standard with an angled foregrip, a barrier stop, hand-guard plates and a bolt-on pic rail for the handguard. The pistol grip is the LWRCI Ultra combat Grip, which has an interesting non-slip texture. The grip has a storage section, to hold a spare battery for your optic and sight adjustment tool and allen wrench. Ahead of that, LWRCI installs their

Advanced Trigger Guard, which is large enough for gloves (always useful when hunting) and sturdy enough to protect the trigger against impacts. It also came with a DuraMag (Dura-Mag.com) magazine made for the .350 cartridge and marked as-such, something you'll want. The included magazine holds five rounds, which is just fine. "*But an AR is supposed to hold 30 rounds.*" Well, your 5.56 is. Since the whole point of the 350 Legend is to hunt with it in locations where a bottlenecked cartridge can't be used, I don't see the five-shots-only magazine being a problem. If you do, then get yourself some thirties.

It did not come with sights. However, LWRCI shoved an optic into the package sent here, a Hawke riflescope. The Hawke riflescope was one of their Endurance 30WA, in the 2.5-10X with illuminated reticle. It's a lot of optic for only \$580 list price. Some might argue that 10X is a bit much for deer hunting, but that top end does two



Disassembly of the LWRCI IC-DI is like any other AR-15: simple and straightforward.

things for you: it lets you get the zero dialed in precisely at the range, and in the blind, it lets you zoom in and see just what kind of antlers your prospective buck has on him. I did all the accuracy work at the 10X end.

I grabbed a Geissele 30mm mount off of the shelf, and quickly had the scope mounted. Once at the range, it was easy to get it zeroed, and I then did the usual work: chronographing loads, then



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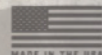


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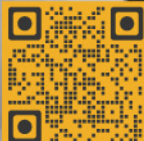
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◀ The Hawke 2.5x10 optic, while seeming a bit large for a hunting rifle, worked great and made accuracy testing easy.



▶ The Hawk scope has an illuminated reticle, and multiple brightness settings.



Don't let the receiver markings distract you. The LWRCI 350 Legend is a semi-only carbine.



The magazine and the upper are both marked as to the cartridge they work with. Good on LWRCI, and DuraMag, for doing this.

testing for accuracy. The recoil is mild (especially compared to other straight-walled cartridges) and the accuracy was really good.

Now, the 350 Legend has come in for a bit of complaining. (Shooters complaining? Imagine that.) The idea was simple: make a hunting cartridge that met DNR regs but didn't knock you out of the blind. So, you get a 175- to 180-grain bullet at 2,200 fps. No, it isn't a .35 Whelen (not that many deer hunters even know what that one is) but it is a step up from the .35 Remington. The book specs on the .35 Remington lists it at 2,100 fps, but I've owned a .35 Remington. It never, with any load, ever delivered 180-grain bullets at 2,100 fps. (The Hornady LEVERevolution might do that now.) And even if it did, and the 350 Legend is "only" as good as the .35 Remington, then what's the problem? You can't hunt in the straight-wall areas with a .35 Rem, and as far as



Accuracy was good across the board with the various .350 Legend ammo options.

I know, no whitetail has ever complained about the "paltry" specs of the .35 Rem. Is it a long-range cartridge, like a 6.5 Creedmoor? No, but, again, you can't hunt in the straight-wall areas with a 6.5 Creedmoor.

Combine the accuracy of the LWRCI and the clarity of the Hawke optics, and from a blind you're in like Flynn within 100 yards. If you practice and check your zero at 150, then the far side of a clearing means you get a deer that year. If you just have to reach to 200 yards, then zero

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◀ The LWRCI and Hornady teamed up for some really good groups. In an earlier age, a “woods” rifle that delivered a group like this would have been a rarity. Now, it is common, especially with Hornady ammo and LWRCI accuracy.

▶ As with all rifles, use the ammunition that works 100% (it all did, once broken-in) and shoots most accurately. Not an easy choice with this rifle.



LWRCI DI 350 LEGEND RIFLE CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA					
Ammunition	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Accuracy (in.) (Avg. & Best)
Winchester Deer Season	150	2,231	71	33.5	1.65 / 1.35
Winchester Copper Impact	150	2,178	26	11.7	1.7 / 1.4
Hornady American Whitetail	170	2,121	29	12.5	1.5 / 1.2
Browning Silver Series	180	2,040	57	22.7	1.65 / 1.5
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 Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.					

Penetration? Check. Expansion? Check. A good chance there's a deer to be taken, come the Fall? Check.

your rifle a few inches high at 100, and then check the drops at 150 and 200 just to be absolutely sure.

To see just what was up with the .350 Legend at the other end, I took some of the extra Hornady Whitetail 170-grain ammo on hand and shot it into some Clear Ballistics clear gel blocks. I backed one block with another, and for good reason. Rifle soft-point bullets tend to do a lot of penetrating, and the .350 was no exception. The Hornady 170-grain Interlock bullets expanded and all

penetrated to the back of the first block, a couple were in-between the first and second, and I'd have lost them if not for the second block. So, no worries about it “not being enough for deer” as I heard one too-clever wag comment. Long range? No. At normal deer-hunting ranges it's a bruiser on the other end, but not your end.

In the initial testing, I had a few rounds not fully close with the first round out of the magazine. After a bit of chronograph work, that went away, and I can only surmise that it was some combo of the magazine getting the feed lips coating burnished, and the various parts breaking-in. I'm not in the habit of “breaking in” a test gun, I let the process of testing do that. Plus, this time I didn't have an unlimited supply of ammunition. The .350 Legend is still new enough that supplies, even for us gun writers, are not inexhaustible. So, I couldn't spend an afternoon just plinking at the 100-yard gongs, getting the rifle ready for testing. Take that as a lesson, don't depend on a brand-new rifle, with few rounds through it, on Opening Day. Do your part. **FN**

LWRCI DI 350 LEGEND RIFLE	
Type:	Hammer-fired semi-automatic
Caliber:	350 Legend
Capacity:	5+1 rounds
Barrel:	16.1 in.
Overall Length:	32 in. (stock collapsed), 35 in. extended
Weight:	7.3 lbs., 8 lbs. 1 oz. w/optic, mount and loaded mag
Finish:	Anodized aluminum,
Grips:	Ultra Combat Grip
Sights:	n/a
Trigger:	Single stage, 3 lbs. 11 oz.
MSRP:	\$1,917 (\$2,095 in FDE)
Manufacturer:	LWRCI.com, (410) 901-1348

SOURCES
Browning Ammunition, BrowningAmmo.com
DURAMAG, DuraMag.com , (941) 727-0009
Hawke Optics, HawkeOptics.com , (877) 429-5347
Hornady Ammunition, Hornady.com , (800) 338-3220
Winchester Ammunition, Winchester.com

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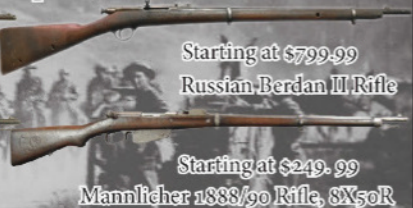
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THE PM-12 SMG SERIES:

BERETTA'S OPEN-BOLT LIONESS

By Pierangelo Tendas

A child of the resurgence of the Italian firearms industry after World War II, the Beretta PM12 and its derivatives, the PM-12S and PM-12S2, would go on to dominate the market for open-bolt sub-machine guns for decades to come, rivaling the venerable UZI.



For a Long Time, Open-Bolt Sub-Machine Guns Have Been a Mainstay of Military and Law Enforcement Armament; and For Long, Long Years After World War II, the Main Competitors on Such Market Have Been Two: the Israeli Uzi and the Italian Beretta PM-12.

The last years of World War II saw the Italian firearms industry (or what was left of it, destroyed by Allied bombings and under the direct control of German occupation forces) scramble to find solutions that would ensure a steady supply of armaments to the troops despite the desperate situation in terms of available finances, materials, and technology.

One of the more pressing points, by far, was to find a replacement, or at least an effective complement, to the

MAB Model 38A, 38/42 and 38/44 submachine guns in service at the time. Designed by engineer Tullio Marengoni, the *Moschetto Automatico Beretta* (“Beretta machine-carbine”) was by all intents and purposes probably the



The Beretta MAB Model 38/49, manufactured after World War II, was adopted by the Italian government and by the re-established German military and border guard; it did not, however, fully solve the problems inherent with the MAB design. (Photo by Morphy Auctions)



The Beretta MAB Model 38A (top) and Model 38/44 (bottom) machine-carbines are known to be the best firearms of World War II in their category; as excellent as it could be, even in the simplified late-war incarnation, the MAB was expensive in terms of materials and machine time, and was unsuitable for wartime production. (Photo by Morphy Auctions)



The final incarnation of the MAB, known as the 38/57, featured a handguard safety that would constantly depressed when the gun was fired. All MABs remaining in Italian service after the 1950s would be converted to the 38/57 standard. (Photo by D&B Militaria)

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THE PM-12 SMG SERIES: BERETTA'S OPEN-BOLT LIONESS



The first incarnation of the Beretta Model 12, a.k.a. PM-12. The key features of the design were all already there; the PM-12 can be told apart from its later incarnations by the brown plastic grips, double cross-bolt push button selectors, and hooded front sight. (Photo by D&B Militaria)

best sub-machine gun of its generation, but it was also a complicated and expensive firearm to manufacture with lots of machining required.

The design had been simplified for wartime production, and said simplified versions, albeit slightly revised as the Model 38/49 and 38/57 (a.k.a. Model 5), would remain in production and service in Italy after World War II and would find international commercial success as the newly founded Federal Border Guard of west Germany (later the west German Army) adopted it as the Mp.1 in 1951.

However, even for Italy, by the late 1950s the MAB was getting long in the tooth. Post-war production saw the launch of “higher mobility” versions, such as the Model 2 (with a vertical pistol grip and Mp.40-type under-folding stock), and Model 4 (with a vertical pistol grip and telescopic steel wire buttstock), which, however, failed to reduce the overall weight and dimensions of the MAB to levels that were considered more in line with modern canons of the era.

The final breath of World War II had seen the Italian industry pioneer concepts that the global sub-machine gun production would heavily borrow from after the conflict. The FNA-B Model 43 was Europe’s first mass-produced closed-bolt SMG. The TZ-45 and GENAR sub-machine guns (unsuccessfully proposed on the post-war market as the SAMT AZ-49), and the Isotta Fraschini prototype allowed the Italian industry to master the use of sheet steel stampings. The OG-43 and OG-44 prototypes, assembled by engineer Giovanni Oliani at the Arma Guerra factory in the city of Cremona, pioneered the concept of a telescopic or wraparound bolt on which successful designs such as the Czechoslovakian Sa. Vz.23 series, and the Israeli UZI, would later be based.

■ Enter Domenico Salza

The year 1956 saw one Tullio Marengoni retire from his position at the Beretta company. Little known in the US outside of the strictest circle of firearms history enthusiasts, Marengoni had been Beretta’s chief engineer for decades, after joining the company as an entirely self-taught, self-made designer in 1917. His first venture was the conver-



The first Beretta PM-12 incarnation featured a cross-bolt safety and a separate cross-bolt selector for single shots (“Singolo”) and full-automatic fire (“Raffica”). This solution was adopted to make familiarization easier for Italian military and police customers who were already used to the cross-bolt safety used by the Beretta M951 pistol and MAB sub-machine guns. (Photo by D&B Militaria)

sion of the WWI-era Villar Perosa magazine-fed, pistol-caliber, double-barreled machine-gun into a single-barrel man-portable firearm equipped with a rifle stock.

The Italian military adopted the Moschetto Automatico Beretta Mod.1918 (“Beretta Model 1918 Machine-Carbine”) in the final year of World War I, and such development spurred Marengoni’s career who went on to design the MAB series of sub machine-guns as well as prototypes such as the Model 37 self-loading rifle, and more successful designs such as the Beretta 34 and 38 pistols. After World War II, he would go on to design the Beretta 951 9mm pistol and the Beretta P30 M.781 .30-M1 caliber machine-carbine, sold as the “Model 57” in small quantities to Morocco.



The Beretta PM-12S2 sub-machine gun, seen from the left side, with its stock folded to the right.



The right side of the Beretta PM-12S2, with the stock unfolded.

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The Beretta PM-12's foregrip and reciprocating charging handle; outing this sample as a PM-12S2 is the machined bolt catch rack on the receiver, which prevents accidental discharges should the bolt be accidentally released by the gun being bumped or in case of a short stroke.



The grip of the Beretta PM-12S2 with its black plastic panel and grip safety.



The height-adjustable front post of the PM-12S2. On the first PM-12, the sight was protected by a full hood.



The rear peep sight is adjustable for ranging, to engage targets within 100 and 200 meters respectively.

Tullio Marengoni was succeeded as Beretta's chief engineer by Domenico Salza. Marengoni's own former protégé, and a Class of 1949 graduate from the Polytechnic University of Milan, Salza would be the main driving force behind Beretta's development of the M1 Garand rifle platform into the BM-59 battle rifle that served with the Italian Army well into the 1980s and saw moderate international market success. His main endeavour, however, went into the development of a more modern, more compact and lightweight sub-machine gun with an acceptable rate of fire that would replace the MAB series for internal and commercial sales.

Beretta's acquisition of the Isotta Fraschini and Arma-guerra firearms businesses after World War II allowed Salza to capitalize on the earlier research into stamped-steel construction and the latter's wraparound bolt design. Indeed, the wraparound bolt soon turned out to be the only practical way for Salza to reach its intended goal, particularly in terms of controllability, as either building a heavier bolt or extending the bolt travel would have defeated the original purpose of a lighter and more compact final product.

From 1953 to 1959, Salza would come up with several prototypes—ranging from the Model 6 to the Model 11 (perfectly illustrated in the book *I mitra italiani 1915–1991*, written by Vittorio Balzi and published by the Editoriale Olimpia publishing company, where the author of this

article started his career as an outdoor writer for the historical *Diana Armi* magazine all the way back in 2005). Each prototype would elaborate on the key concepts of wraparound bolt and sheet steel construction. The end result, the “Pistola-Mitragliatrice Modello 12” (“Model 12 sub-machine gun”), or PM-12 for short, simply known as the M-12 by the Italian law enforcement and military, would be finalized in 1959 and enter production in 1961.

■ Sheer Simplicity

The Beretta PM-12 is manufactured around stamped and bent sheet steel lower receiver: which includes the magazine well, double grip, trigger guard, fire selector, and trigger group, as well as a tubular upper held together by a set of passing pins and finished in black with epoxy resin. A straight-blowback, open-bolt sub-machine gun chambered in 9mm Luger, the Beretta PM-12 is similar in concept and end purpose to contemporary designs such as



◀ **A latch allows the wire metal stock to be extended or folded to the right side, cutting the overall length of the PM-12 almost in half for transport or convenient use in close quarters, from within vehicles, or under a trench coat for close protection details.**



► **The three-position selector is marked S for “Sicura” (safe), I for “Intermittenza” (single shots), and R for “Raffica” (full-automatic). The fire selector replaced the double push-button design in 1978, marking the transition between the PM-12 and the PM-12S.**

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THE PM-12 SMG SERIES: BERETTA'S OPEN-BOLT LIONESS



◀ The magazine is held in place by a flat lever latch located under the trigger guard. It does not fall free and must be tapped in and pulled out.

▶ An open-bolt design, the PM-12 features a fixed firing pin on the rear portion of the chromed wraparound bolt assembly.



◀ A notch located under the barrel keeps the barrel nut in place. This is where the field-stripping procedure of the Beretta PM-12 begins.

▶ By pulling the notch up to disengage the barrel nut, it is possible to unscrew it and extract the entire barrel and bolt assembly out of the front of the gun.



The barrel assembly within the wraparound bolt—this is the heart of the Beretta PM-12. As the gun fires, a large amount of mass is pulled forward, enclosing the barrel and countering recoil and muzzle climb.



The rear portion of the bolt, featuring a fixed firing pin and extractor. In the conversion of the PM-12 to semi-automatic only for civilian sales, the bolt is cut in two and this portion is held back by the sear when the charging handle is cocked, acting as a hammer.

the Vz.23 and UZI: a compact firearm conceived mainly for short-range fire saturation, but capable of decent accuracy at mid-range.

At the heart of the PM-12 is a tubular stainless steel wraparound bolt with an integral charging handle and a fixed firing pin. When the bolt slams shut, a large portion of the bolt wraps around the barrel, moving enough mass forward to effectively counter the recoil and muzzle climb and keep the cyclic rate to a nicely controllable 550 rounds per minute. The bolt features two large slots, on the bottom and on the right side, to facilitate travel and to allow the ejection of spent cases from the window located on the right of the tubular upper receiver.

The two grips are part of the lower assembly and wrapped in plastic. The PM-12 also features a grip safety, a steel wire stock that folds to the right side, a height-adjustable front post and a rear peep sight adjustable for ranging 100 or 200 meters. This was made possible by the 20 centimeters (approx. eight inches) barrel. The trigger is probably the main drawback of the design, with a pull weight of approximately four kilograms (over eight pounds) and a relatively long travel, all implemented to prevent accidental discharges by shooters who were more used to the double trigger system of the MAB.

Overall, the PM-12 is an extremely compact firearm even for today's canons, standing at 16.5 inches with

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THE PM-12 SMG SERIES: BERETTA'S OPEN-BOLT LIONESS



Once the bolt and barrel assembly is removed, sufficient tension has been removed from the return spring to allow the end cap, which also hosts the rear sling ring, to be removed.



The cap is held in place by a latch that's integral to the rear sight assembly. Like the front latch, all it takes is to lift it to start unscrewing.



As the cap comes out, the return spring can be removed from the rear portion of the receiver.

its stock folded and just under 24 inches with the stock extended. It's a little bit heftier in terms of weight, 6.6 pounds when empty and going all the way up to eight pounds when loaded with 32 rounds of 9mm Luger ammunition. Magazines are double-stack sheet metal. The PM-12 was also designed to remain compatible with the 20-, 30-, and 40-round magazines of the Beretta MAB M38 series of sub-machine guns, which were plentiful in Italian military and law enforcement stocks.

The original PM-12, manufactured from 1961 to 1978, can be distinguished by the following iterations of the design by the brown plastic grips, hooded front sight, and two separate cross-bolt switches located respectively above the grip and above the trigger guard at thumb and index finger reach—the earlier dubbing as a manual safety by blocking the trigger, the latter allowing the shooter to switch between semi-automatic and full-automatic fire. The cross-bolt system was originally implemented to facilitate familiarization by Italian law enforcement and military users, being already used on the Beretta 951 pistol and MAB sub-machine guns already in use.

Later during the 1960s, the brown polymer grips were replaced by a black polymer and the fully-hooded front

sight would give way to a simpler design with two protective wings. It wasn't until 1978, however, that the PM-12 became the PM-12S ("S" standing for *Sicura*, or "Safety"), with the two separate pushbuttons for the safety, and fire selector being replaced by a simpler three-position lever with positions for safe, single shots/semi-automatic, and full-automatic fire located on the left side of the frame, just above the grip, at thumb reach.

This version would by far become the most successful of the bunch, and it was when the French National Gendarmerie adopted it (circa 1980) as a replacement for their venerable MAT-49 that the final version of the PM-12 design would materialize. The French requested specifically for a safety system that would prevent the typical kind of accidental discharge that may occur with a full-automatic, open-bolt firearm, where the bolt can be accidentally released if the firearm is dropped or bumped, or if the charging handle is short-stroked, not bringing the bolt back enough to engage the sear but allowing it to gain enough momentum to fire a round once the handle is released. Beretta solved the problem with the PM-12S2 model, which quickly became the sole PM-12 variant manufactured by the company from the mid-1980s until production was ultimately halted in 2006.

Mechanically, the PM-12S2 is, by all intents and purposes, a baseline PM-12S with the addition of a sear disconnect and a metal rack machined on to the tubular receiver, on the charging handle guide, which would intercept it and prevent an accidental discharge in such events.

It must be pointed out that the PM-12S2 was the result of a cooperative effort with the Belgian FN company, which was manufacturing the PM-12 under license for the French contract on the basis of a long-standing collaboration agreement within the two companies. The same agreement that today allows Beretta to manufacture the FN Minimi light machine-gun, in numerous variants, for the Italian military.



Special Effects legend, director, and actor, Tom Savini (*Friday the 13th*, *Day of the Dead*, *Creepshow*, *Dusk Till Dawn*, etc.) fires *Firearms News* Editor-in-Chief's PM-12S SMG in the action thriller *Loaded Dice* (2004). (DeNiro was the theatrical armorer for this scene, and also did a stunt and acting.)

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An almost perfect competitor to the UZI, and a perfect successor to the MAB, the Beretta PM-12 in all its iterations would immediately be wholeheartedly adopted by the entire Italian military and law enforcement community. Although due to budgetary constraints, certain organizations wouldn't completely phase out the old MABs until the early 1980s, or even later in some cases (some ships of the Italian Navy still had MAB 38/49s and 38/57s on board for their security teams well into the 2000s).

At the same time, export contracts were received for no less than twenty-five countries worldwide with numerous customers later purchasing the rights to manufacture the design locally. The PM-12 was manufactured under license as the NR-1 by the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), as the PM-1 at the Bandung arsenal (today PT Pindad) in Indonesia, and by Taurus in Brazil where it was known as the MT-12 by law enforcement and as the "MtrM M.972 Metralhadora de Mão" ("hand-held machine-gun") by the military.

Taurus would also be licensed to manufacture the PM-12S as the MT-12A, and later as the MT-12AD, the latter featuring the PM-12S2's sear disconnecter. The Taurus MT-12A and MT-12AD are unique in that they feature an enlarged grip safety and a spring-loaded, snap-open dust cover that protects the ejection port, similar in conception but not in function to that of the M3 and M3A1 Grease Gun. Those features make the gun easier and more reliable in the harsh tropical conditions where the Brazilian military and law enforcement operate, which often require the use of gloves and where firearms need extra protection against elements that may infiltrate the mechanisms and cause malfunctions.

The market success of the PM-12 inspired Beretta to offer a vast line of accessories such as sound suppressors, optics mounts for sights such as the Aimpoint COMP-M or, as early as in the 1960s and 1970s, the AN/PVS-4 Starlight, the

The Beretta PM-12S2, completely field-stripped.



British L2A2 SUIT Trilux, or some of the early LPC laser sights; and a replacement foregrip with an integrated flashlight known as the "Blitz." The aforementioned book *I mitra italiani* also includes images of a replacement fixed black polymer or black-painted wood buttstock. Most of those accessories were however dedicated to suit the needs of special operation units such as Italy's own Navy COMSUBIN, and the Special Intervention Group (GIS) of the Carabinieri, all of which, by the early 1980s, were following the British SAS' lead and adopting the Heckler & Koch MP5, thus making such accouterments for the PM-12 redundant.

No model-specific optical sight was ever manufactured for the Beretta PM-12 and its derivatives. In the late 1970s, the Italian National Police (Polizia di Stato) experimented with the British L2A2 SUIT.



Accessories: starting in the 1970s, Beretta offered an attachment point for the PM-12, and its derivatives, that could be used to install early optics, image intensifiers, or laser sights. (Photo from original Beretta literature)



A rare accessory, manufactured in less than fifty samples, the "Blitz" foregrip with integrated flashlight replaced the original foregrip of the Beretta PM-12 and was issued to the Special Intervention Group (GIS) of the Italian Carabinieri from 1980 to 1990. (Photo by Gun Store Bunker, Milan, Italy)



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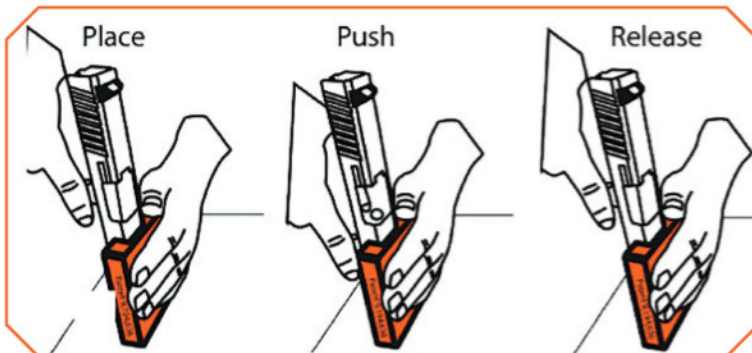


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The “Blitz” foregrip was manufactured out of aluminum, powered by a 12V NiCd battery pack, and could be equipped with a rubberized front cap. Today the few samples still around survive as collectibles on the commercial market. (Photo by Gun Store Bunker, Milan, Italy)



Veteran Italian outdoor writer Roberto Allara trying a Beretta PM-12S2 at the Beretta company's internal shooting range, circa 2009. Even in normal conditions, the muzzle blast does not blind the shooter.

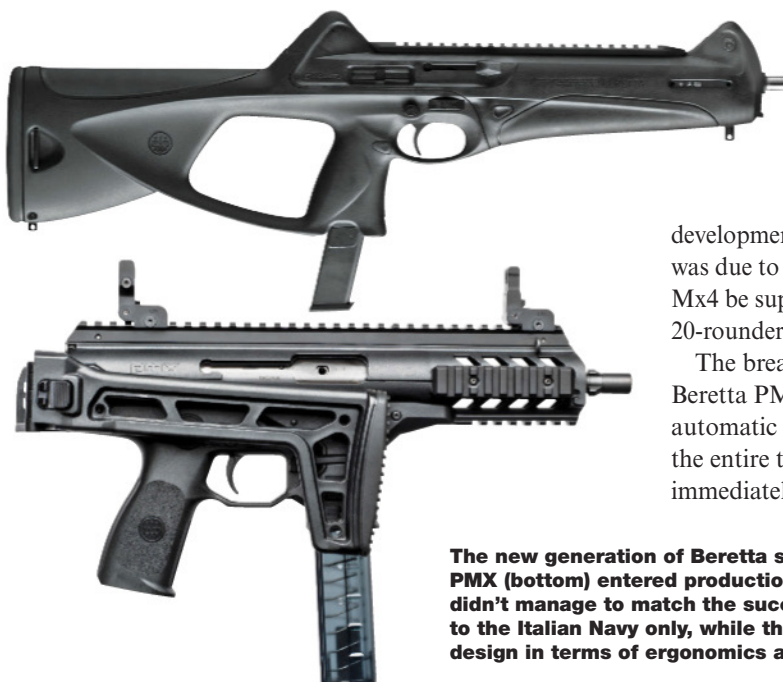
■ Time for Replacement and Civilian Debut

From the 1960s to the late 1980s, the Beretta PM-12 and their variants absolutely ruled the international market for sub-machine guns, being rivaled (at least in their category) only by the UZI and its derivatives. The general public in the United States noticed the PM-12 in the hands of US Marines and CIA personnel outside of the Vietcong-occupied US embassy in Saigon during the Tet offensive of 1968, but by then, the PM-12 was already a veteran of global battlefields and urban pacification and would continue to serve for decades.

However, the “closed bolt revolution,” brought on by the Heckler & Koch MP5, changed the paradigm of service sub-machine guns for law enforcement and special applications. While military users tended to shift towards rifle-caliber carbines, personal defense weapons, chambered for high-

velocity small-caliber cartridges, began to counterbalance the wider adoption of body armor. By the 1990s, it was painfully clear for Beretta that time for the PM-12 was ticking.

The first attempt from Beretta to create a follow-up to the PM-12 series came in 2011 when the company converted the Cx4 semi-automatic pistol-caliber carbine, which they had been unsuccessfully trying to pitch to law enforcement worldwide for some years, into a select-fire platform with a cross-bolt safety/selector and a shorter barrel. The result, dubbed the Mx4 Storm, with blistering high rate of fire (1,200 rounds per minute) due to the short bolt travel, failed to achieve the hoped level of success. Although, over 60,000 samples were sold to the Indian government as a replacement of their stock of Sterling L2A3 sub-machine guns used by paramilitary



forces at the Pakistani border. In Italy, only the Navy ordered a few hundred Mx4 SMGs to replace the PM-12 and whatever few MABs were still being used by their ship security forces. [EDITOR'S NOTE: One advantage of the development of the Mx4 SMG for the contract with India, which benefitted many Beretta firearm owners worldwide, was the

development of a factory 30-round 90-series magazine. This was due to a demand from the Indian government that the Mx4 be supplied with a 30-round magazine instead of the 20-rounder available at the time.]

The breakout came in 2017 with the official launch of the Beretta PMX, an elaboration of the Swiss P26 semi-automatic pistol (of which Beretta acquired the rights and the entire technical package from B&T A.G.) that was immediately adopted by the Italian Carabinieri, and other

The new generation of Beretta sub-machine guns: the Mx4 Storm (top) and the PMX (bottom) entered production after the PM-12 was phased out. The earlier didn't manage to match the success of its predecessors, with sales to India and to the Italian Navy only, while the latter is a much more promising and practical design in terms of ergonomics and controllability.



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THE PM-12 SMG SERIES: BERETTA'S OPEN-BOLT LIONESS



A Beretta PM-12 sub-machine gun as converted to semi-auto operation only for the Italian civilian market. As Italy doesn't have a "Once a machine-gun, always a machine-gun." rule, full-automatic firearms can be legally converted with a procedure certified by the National Proofing House for commercial sales. This is a Pre-S model with hooded front sight and brown plastic grips. The cross-bolt button for automatic fire can still be pushed, but it doesn't affect the operation of the firearm. (Photo by Gun Store Bunker, Milan)

military and law enforcement entities, to replace the PM-12S and PM-12S2 still in service. Replacement is proceeding slowly, with a few hiccups, at least within the Carabinieri. Most of the Italian military has long since given up on the use of sub-machine guns by conventional units, replacing them with the 12-inch barrel version of the Beretta ARX-160 assault rifle. On the other hand, the PM-12 still serves with the Italian National Police (Polizia di Stato), Revenue Service (Guardia di Finanza), and other national law enforcement entities as their standard patrol long weapon.

The phase-out of the Beretta PM-12 from service also meant that the platform, long remained a dream for Italian gun owners and collectors, would finally be accessible to civilian shooters via demilitarization. Those who remember our article about gun laws in Italy will know that a "demilitarized" firearm is not a non-functional piece like in the US, but a firearm that has been permanently converted from its original full-automatic, or select-fire operation, to semi-automatic only for civilian sales.

This is what happened to a number of first-production Beretta PM-12 sub-machine guns from former Italian Army and *Carabinieri* stock that were acquired by the Nuova Jäger company starting in 2018 and subjected to a conversion procedure into semi-automatic, closed-bolt large-size pistols. The fire selector was removed and the sear duly modified (the cross-bolt that activates the burst-fire operation can still be pushed, but engages nothing), and the telescopic bolt was essentially cut in two parts, divided by a spring: when the cocking handle is operated, the wraparound portion slams shut around the barrel, while the rear portion that includes the fixed firing pin remains back, retained by the sear until the trigger is pulled. As the gun cycles, the front portion slams shut again while the rear portion remains cocked. Last, the stock was removed (but it can be reinstalled by the user).



Another PM-12 converted for civilian sales. Notice the short 15-rounds magazine and late model black plastic grips. Aside from sear modification, the conversion of the PM-12 for civilian sales includes cutting the original bolt in two parts to achieve closed-bolt operation. The company responsible for the conversion, Nuova Jäger, also converted several MAB machine-carbines a few years back using largely the same system. (Photo by Gun Store Bunker, Milan)

To the American reader, this kind of conversion will sound familiar. It is, indeed, very similar to what was done in the US to "civilize" open-bolt sub-machine guns such as the UZI and the Sterling. The results are similar. The converted firearm is nowhere near the hell-bent reliable and fairly accurate shooting machine that the original full-automatic design was, turning into a range toy that will definitely turn some heads, but nothing more.

Nonetheless, those converted PM-12s do command very high prices in Italian gun stores, with some tags exceeding 3,000 euros and the limited supply being in high demand. The reason is obvious: like so many other firearms in the past for many countries, the Beretta PM-12 is a piece of "Italiana," and maintains a special place in the heart of all Italian gun enthusiasts, particularly those who, between the years of 1947 and 2005, were called to serve their country for their mandatory one-year national service in the military, and enjoyed some range time with the evergreen Italian lioness. **FN**

BERETTA PM-12, PM-12S, PM-12S2

Type:	Submachine gun
Caliber:	9mm Luger
Capacity:	20, 30, 32, 40 rounds
Barrel:	7.9 in.
Overall Length:	16.5 in. (stock folded), 25.4 in. (stock extended)
Weight:	6.6 lbs. (empty)
Finish:	Matte black epoxy resin against corrosion
Grips:	Vertical, steel and polymer
Sights:	Height-adjustable front post, range-adjustable rear
Barrel Length:	7.9 in.
Trigger:	Approx. 8 lbs. pull
MSRP:	N/A (out of production)

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[Cont. from page 14]

LETTING THE GOVERNMENT PAY YOU FOR FIREARMS INNOVATION

By John Richardson

Let's say you are the manufacturer or an inventor of firearms or firearms-related accessories. A friend mentions that you could be getting R&D credits under Section 41 as well as R&E deductions under Section 174. It sounds to you like your friend is speaking in some sort of code. The reality is that your friend is — the Internal Revenue Code.

Helping me decipher what all this means is Kevin Culver of Royse Partners. Kevin is an attorney and the VP for Tax Incentives & Associate General Counsel. Located in Columbus, Ohio and Houston, Texas, Royse Partners works with all kinds of businesses including those in the firearms industry to help them get tax credits and tax deductions for their product development.

Section 41 Research and Development tax credits provide businesses with dollar-for-dollar tax savings for developing new products, new processes, or improving existing ones. For example, your company produces smokeless gun powder, and you want to make one that is temperature stable. Many existing powders are not temperature stable and will increase pressures as the heat rises. To get a tax credit for developing or improving this temperature stable smokeless power, you need to meet a four-part test. Furthermore, the activities must be US based whether done in-house or through contracted research. It also has to be for one of six core business components: product, process, formula, invention, software, or technique.

The temperature stable powder would meet the first test because it is improved. It would meet the second test as you are trying to solve the issue of increased pressures related to higher outside temperature. To meet the third

test, you would have had to evaluate different coatings or formulations to achieve temperature stability. Finally, your evaluations would have had to be based upon hard or physical sciences as opposed to the social sciences. If you met these criteria, then you can get credits for salaries, contractor expenses, supply and materials, and cloud hosting expenses. Not only that but these credits can carry forward for up to 20 years.



Section 174 of the Internal Revenue Code also deals with R&D though it calls it research and experimentation. However, these are costs incidental to research. Included in incidental costs would be salaries, supplies and materials, patent costs, contract research expenses, overhead expenses, and software development. As these costs are incidental to research, they only qualify for a tax deduction and not a tax credit.

As of tax year 2022, this deduction for incidental research expenses must be amortized over a period of five years. Unlike Section 41 tax credits, foreign based research expenses are eligible though they must be amortized over a 15-year period. Certain expenses are excluded from consideration under Section 174. These include things like ordinary quality control testing, efficiency surveys, expenses related to marketing such as consumer surveys or advertising, purchase of another company's patent, and research in connection with literary or historical projects.



As you can tell, deciding what qualifies and how to properly account for it to the IRS's satisfaction can be difficult. That is where Kevin and Royse Partners come in. Their team of attorneys, CPAs, engineers, and a Certified Fraud Examiner will provide a free initial consultation with the company. Provided the R&D credit is a good fit for your company, they will start an evaluation to determine what credits or deductions you might qualify for and what documentation will be required. If it is found to be viable, they work to quantify the credits and then finally deliver a Final Credit Letter. As Kevin emphasized, Royse Partners only gets paid if they are successful in delivering you a tax credit or deduction.

If you would like to contact Kevin Culver, Esq. and Royse Partners, they can be reached at (888) 347-6973, or via their website RoysePartners.com. You can also email Kevin directly at kculver@roysepartners.com.

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About the Author

John Richardson is a certified financial planner (ret.) and blogger who has written about gun rights and Second Amendment issues since 2010 at No Lawyers — Only Guns and Money. His blogging earned him the Second Amendment Foundation's Ray Carter Blogger of the Year Award in 2017. He is a NRA Certified Basic Pistol Instructor and has held a Curios and Relics FFL for over 20 years. **FN**

ICONIC 1911 GUNSMITH ED BROWN PASSES AWAY

By Patrick Sweeney

The night of September 14, William Edward Brown passed away. Newer shooters might only know of him from his family company, Ed Brown Custom. But pretty much every time you pick up a 1911 that has more done to it than a World War II-era parts set, or a vanilla-plain Series 70, you can thank Ed. He started as a machinist; no, he started as a precision machinist, a tool and die maker. Those who cut metal are commonly a touchy lot, as making things to exact standards isn't easy. Making them perfectly to a standard is akin to an art-form, and that's what tool and die makers do. In addition to working as a tool and die maker, he had his own gun shop, as many of us back then did. Ed began shooting IPSC in the late 1970s, and in the early years he was like many of us, working hard to improve his skills, and not entirely happy with the quality of parts to be had. Despite the lack of readily available better parts, he made his way into the Top 16 at the IPSC World Shoot in 1983, and even at that early date, it was a difficult and stellar accomplishment. Still, the lack of parts was something he felt needed to be addressed, so in the late 1980s he quit his job and began making 1911 parts full time. His initial lineup was three parts, the three parts we all fussed over the most back then: a grip safety, a mag well and a hammer.

If you look at a custom or even semi-custom 1911 today, and note how high on the frame you can get your hand, thank Ed. His design was revolutionary, and it quickly became the default grip safety on IPSC ranges. The mag funnel sped reloads, and the hammer made improving the trigger pull an easy task. The one that really caught my attention was his thumb safety. Before

the Ed Brown thumb safety, there had been many attempts to make the vanishingly small GI safety, and the later Series 70 safety, better. But it was Ed Brown who made the lever ergonomic, and his fit my hand like no other. It, too, quickly became the default, so much so that its geometry, like the grip safety, was copied over and over. As I mentioned, tool and die makers can be a touchy lot. They make the tooling that other machinists then use to make stuff, and there is no such thing as "close enough" in the tool and die industry. Some found Ed to be a bit brusque or off-putting, but I never did. When I first encountered him at one of the USPSA Nationals held at the PASA range in Quincy, he was more than happy to talk pistolsmithing. I wasn't a famous gun writer then, and I wasn't in danger of making the Top 16 in the match (I did later) but I did know how to fit parts, what mattered in function, and we got along well. How good a pistolsmith was Ed Brown? Good enough to have been awarded "Pistolsmith of the Year" by the American Pistolsmith Guild in 1991. In the course of time, Ed made more and more parts for 1911s, until he almost had enough to make a pistol. By then, he also had two grown sons, and they expanded the company to produce custom-built 1911s using all parts made by Ed Brown Custom.

The Ed Brown Custom line did not encompass pages and pages of models. They focused on making a few models to absolute precision, accuracy and classic looks. I've had the pleasure of testing and reviewing Ed Brown



Photo courtesy of Ed Brown Products

Custom 1911s, and the later M&Ps, and at no time did I ever find something to criticize. Ed and his sons Travis and Wade did not stop adding to the lineup, and innovating. The classic method of providing a non-slip grip was to checker the frame. Using precision CNC machining, they created the Snakeskin pattern, scales machined from the steel of the frame to make a non-slip grip. Ed also designed the Bobtail, a change in the curve of the mainspring housing that made an everyday carry 1911 less likely to print when carried. As if that wasn't enough, Ed also delved into the bolt-action rifle arena. And just in case you weren't a 1911 fan, you could count on Ed Brown Custom to provide you with a much better barrel for your Glock, as well as a slew of upgraded parts for your S&W M&P. Ed stepped down from running the company in 2010, leaving that task to his sons. William Edward Brown is a classic American story. Starting with the skills he developed, he recognized a need, and filled the gap left by others. He built it into a business that employs his family and a crew of others and is known and respected in the firearms industry. We should all live such lives. **FN**

OBAMA-APPOINTED JUDGE: SHORT-BARRELED RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS NOT PROTECTED BY SECOND AMENDMENT

By Darwin Nercesian

District of Hawaii Judge, Derrick Kahala Watson, has decided that short-barreled rifles and machine guns are not protected by the Second Amendment in *United States v. Chan*. While the Obama appointee ruled in predictable defiance of the U.S. Supreme Court *Bruen* decision, the mental gymnastics used to justify the determination is what stole the show.

While conducting a welfare check in 2022, law enforcement officers discovered a bag in the trunk of Christopher Chan's vehicle containing a short-barreled rifle which had been converted to fire full-automatic. Chan was subsequently charged with possession of an unregistered SBR and a machine gun, both violations of the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA).

Chan responded to the charges by filing a complaint claiming that his right to bear arms had been violated. He correctly stated that SBRs are "arms" that fall within the plain text of the Second Amendment and that Hawaii could not prove the challenged law is consistent with America's historical tradition of firearm regulation, the test set in place by the *Bruen* decision.

With the U.S. Supreme Court having provided the training wheels, Watson began by demonstrating reasonable understanding:

"When the Second Amendment's plain text covers an individual's conduct, the Constitution presumptively protects that conduct. To justify its regulation . . . the government must demonstrate that the regulation is consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation. Only if a firearm regulation is consistent with this Nation's historical tradition may a court conclude that the individual's conduct falls outside the Second Amendment's 'unqualified command.'"

Then Watson made a mockery of that understanding, determining that SBRs and machine guns are "dangerous and unusual" and that Chan's Second Amendment rights did not afford him protection from the charges. In doing so, Watson sidestepped *Bruen* by citing a 2012 9th Circuit decision in *United States v. Henry*.

"machine guns are highly 'dangerous and unusual weapons' that are not 'typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes' ... the Second Amendment does not apply to machine guns."

Chan's attorneys were quick to remind the judge that *Henry* had been decided prior to the prevailing jurisdictional landscape set by *Bruen*. This did nothing to quell the spectacle as Watson responded:

"There is no indication that *Henry* is 'clearly irreconcilable' with *Bruen*.... As a result, *Henry* remains binding precedent, such that this Court must find that machine guns are "dangerous and unusual weapons ... not entitled to Second Amendment protection."

Watson avoided the obligation to provide any historical basis for the infringements dating back to the Founding Era. Chan's attorneys, now facing an upside down application of the law, found themselves having to prove their client's case rather than defending him against the burden belonging to the state of Hawaii.

If it does not appear yet that Watson had chosen his position before hearing the case and would defend that position by any dishonest means necessary, what happened next might turn that page.

Watson dismissed, as irrelevant, any and all proof provided by Chan's attorneys to demonstrate commonality of use. When provided with actual figures such as the 741,146 lawfully registered and possessed machine guns in the United States, Watson responded:



Shutterstock By Dovgaliuk Igor

"The number of machine guns, in the abstract, does not establish such weapons are in common use by law-abiding citizens.... This amount remains too insignificant for machineguns to be considered in common use...."

This decision will no doubt face an appeal, as it is ripe for one on both a factual and procedural basis. The state, being legally obligated to prove such firearms may be lawfully restricted based on historical tradition, instead shifted its burden onto Chan, forcing him to otherwise prove they were in common use, then ignored Chan's attorneys when they provided the court with that proof.

While it is hopeful that this may play out in a higher court that could see further clarification and precedent set in favor of the Second Amendment, it is nevertheless daunting to witness the continued "what're you going to do about it" attitude from activist judges, especially if you're the one sitting in the hot seat.

Citations:

<https://casetext.com/case/united-states-v-chan-192>

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-843_7j80.pdf

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/supreme-courts-new-gun-test-gets-airing-in-domestic-violence-case> **FN** ►►►

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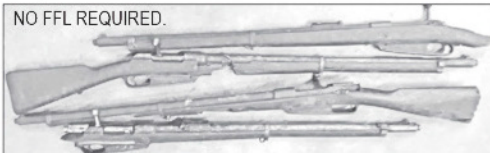


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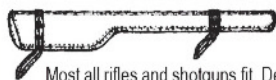
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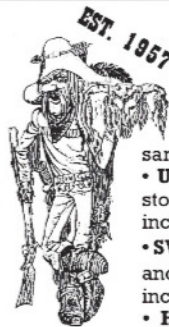
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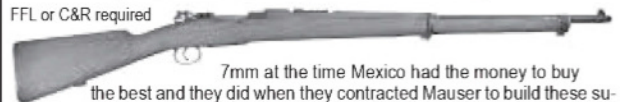


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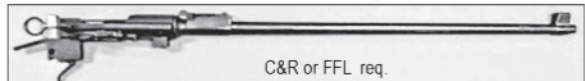


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MAKE SURE CHRIS COX'S NEW 'SECURE OUR FREEDOM' GROUP DOESN'T ALSO SECURE MORE GUN CONTROL

By David Codrea

“New gun group launches to fill NRA vacuum,” an Axios story labeled “Scoop” claims. “The Secure Our Freedom Alliance, a 501(c)4 organization, isn’t looking to compete with existing firearm groups, but wants to fill what it sees as an urgent need to address gun owners this election cycle.”

That need?

“The goal is to convince new gun owners, especially women and minorities, that their rights are under attack by the Biden administration and progressive politicians,” the story explains. “Our purpose is to win the hearts and minds of the American public to protect the right to self-defense,” the group’s senior advisor Chris Cox declared.

That’s the same Chris Cox who was NRA’s chief lobbyist/political wonk, who was cast out (suspended, then resigned) after being accused of being part of a coup to oust executive director Wayne LaPierre. One would think that would work in his favor.

After all, the so-called “Gun Culture 2.0” represents an untapped political market. While some “gunfluencers” have been quick to uncork the champagne and claim victory because of the millions of new gun owners that have emerged following, among other things, the Covid scare, the more prudent are curbing their enthusiasm, realizing that diversity is no guarantee for enhancing Second Amendment recognition. If owning a gun was enough, we wouldn’t have to worry about Tim Walz and Fudds for Harris.

So, Cox is right about the need. But is he the right person to address it?

While the case could be made that you need to start people out slowly and get them to dip their toes into the pool and splash around a bit before wading into deeper waters, couching the Second Amendment exclusively in “self-defense” terms limits the right and invites

infringements. And Cox has supported plenty of those in his tenure at NRA.

One of the reasons he and LaPierre opposed confirmation of Eric Holder as Attorney General is the nominee didn’t support enough “gun control.

“...Mr. Holder was among those in the Clinton administration who strongly resisted a national expansion of Project Exile, a successful anti-crime program in Richmond, Virginia that used true ‘zero tolerance’ federal prosecution of convicted felons, drug dealers and armed robbers to achieve a remarkable reduction in that city’s murder and violent crime rates,” they claimed in a 2009 letter to Sens. Patrick Leahy and Arlen Specter.

“We condemn any program that involves enforcing unconstitutional ‘laws’, even if such ‘laws’ are enforced only against violent criminals, the Project Exile Condemnation Coalition, a resolution signed by a diverse cross section of national and state gun rights leaders, including Gun Owners of America’s Larry Pratt, declared. “Unconstitutional ‘laws’ are illegal, harmful to public safety, tyrannical, and are inevitably enforced against ordinary, non-criminal citizens. The ‘Project Exile’ supported by the current NRA management calls for enforcing all existing gun laws, regardless of their unconstitutionality and regardless of their being enforceable against non-criminals.”

There’s more.

“We’ve never advocated fully automatic machine guns and Paul knows it,” Cox responded to then Brady Campaign president Paul Helmke in a 2007 appearance on Glenn Beck’s show.

Why not? Instead of using an opportunity to educate a mass audience, he distanced himself from “every terrible implement of the soldier,” that is, from the arms of the Second Amendment, and publicly cut the legs from under everyone who knows better.

“Chris Cox... told a national television audience Donald Trump was wrong to

suggest the shooting in Orlando could have been prevented, at least in part, if patrons to the nightclub Pulse had been allowed to carry weapons – that drinking alcohol and concealed carrying just don’t mix,” *WorldNetDaily* reported in 2016. “No one thinks that people should go into a nightclub drinking and carrying firearms,” said Cox, during an interview on ‘This Week’ with ABC. “That defies common sense. It also defies the law.”

People who don’t drink don’t go to nightclubs...? And the law should render defenseless people who do so responsibly...? Extending his concern, is it possible to have both a liquor cabinet and a gun safe in the home?

There’s more, but we’ll end this with the big betrayal, Cox and LaPierre throwing bump stock owners under the bus – and despite their denials, giving Donald Trump a de facto green light to ban them.

“The National Rifle Association is calling on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) to immediately review whether these devices comply with federal law,” they wrote in a 2017 Joint Statement. “The NRA believes that devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully-automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations.” (And while apologists have been floating the opinion of late that this was a genius move that ensured a Supreme Court win, such claims have no credible documented basis, especially in light of past NRA actions and positions and how getting the high court to hear a case is a risky gamble.)

All this isn’t to say that the Secure Our Freedom Alliance can’t be helpful in swaying some votes against Kamala Harris and her gun confiscation agenda. Just be under no illusions about the guy running the show, and what he’ll be telling gun owners under his influence if he gains more of it. **FN ▶▶▶**

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MASSIE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON PERMITLESS CARRY RECIPROCITY AND DONALD TRUMP

By David Codrea

Rep. Thomas Massie made the news recently when he introduced HR9534, the National Constitutional Carry Act, correctly noting “No one should have to beg the government to exercise a constitutionally protected right anywhere in the country.”

Massie has been one of the very few in public life who makes his principles clear and acts on them. The unlikelihood of such a bill passing in today’s political climate, and the fact that those principles have in the recent past resulted in a furious demand from Donald Trump to literally expel him from the GOP, should interest all gun owner advocates, especially at a time when we need to pull together against the existential threat to the right to arms represented by Kamala Harris and the Democrats.

To that end, *Firearms News* submitted two questions to Rep. Massie, which he has answered below.

FN: Surely, you’re aware that legislative monitoring website GovTrack.us gives the “Prognosis” that there’s a “1% chance of being enacted.”

There is growing jaded gun owner sentiment that politicians on both sides introduce bills they know have no chance of passing for political points. Your own experience, as you related to Armed American Radio host Mark Walters in 2017, when you informed him that then-speaker Paul Ryan said the timing wasn’t right for the D.C. Personal Protection Reciprocity Act, shows that when in power, the GOP leadership finds a way to avoid giving the words they use to get elected any real meaning.

Why introduce your bill now instead of after the November elections, and if the GOP succeeds in holding on to the House and winning back the Senate and the White House, what prognosis do you give for this bill, a hearing protection (suppressor) bill, and other pre-election promises being passed and enacted?

TM: “The time to stand up for our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is always: Now. Constitutional Carry is recognized by 29 states, and it is important to keep building on this momentum. If we win the House, the Senate, and the White House we will have a running start on getting this legislation enacted next ear.”

FN: Donald Trump and establishment Republicans – members of what he has previously referred to as “the Swamp,” went ballistic on you for insisting on the Constitutionally-required quorum for the “Save Our Workers Act,” with the former president calling you “a third-rate Grandstander” and demanding “throw Massie out of Republican Party!” This was at a time when your primary challenger was Todd McMurtry, not just a Never Trumper, but a documented Trump hater, who said “I hate to say that Hillary [Clinton] is right, but he is temperamentally unqualified to be President.”

What do you have to say to President Trump and his supporters? Noting the Democrat/Harris/Walz platform on guns, do you agree the November elections represent an existential and binary choice for gun owners, and will you vote for him even if there is no personal reconciliation?

TM: “Vice President Harris is part of an administration that has already weaponized the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) rulemaking powers to attack gun rights, and there is no doubt that Trump would be better for our gun rights.”

As this correspondent wrote in an April 2020 *AmmoLand* article, “Trump Attack on Massie Self-Defeating and Wrong.” His ad hominem attack was a logical fallacy, resorted to by those trying to incite support by hurling insults. Constitutionally speaking, Massie was right, and those manipulated to scream against a recorded vote because it was “their guy” doing it were enabling the tyranny relied on when it’s the other guy doing it – just look at the results of the

unaccountable voice vote on the Hughes Amendment

to the so-called “Firearms Owners Protection Act,” banning ownership of machine guns manufactured after May 19th, 1986.

An interesting side note is that in the 2020 election, the National Rifle Association downgraded Massie’s grade to a B+ because he correctly objected to adding “Fix NICS” background check prior restraint infringements in a reciprocity bill and gave his primary opponent McMurtry an AQ (questionnaire-based) grade.

As Rep. Massie continues to insist that the GOP leadership follows the Constitution on foreign and domestic special interest issues, he will continue to take hits from the very Swamp that Trump is supposed to be draining. And rather than help his own candidacy, the former president’s pettiness will continue to be a major weakness in his campaign. He would do well to realize MAGA throngs are not excited into political frenzy because they support Republican establishment concessions, and to reach out to Massie and learn from him.

It’s a safe bet his ego will keep that from happening. Meaning it’s up to informed gun owners to realize, like Massie acknowledges, “there is no doubt that Trump would be better for our gun rights,” and like him, to continue the hostility-inviting task of showing Republicans nominally on “our side” why they’re wrong when they’re wrong.



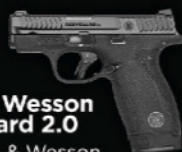
Shutterstock By Philip Yabut

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

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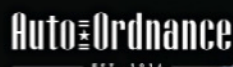
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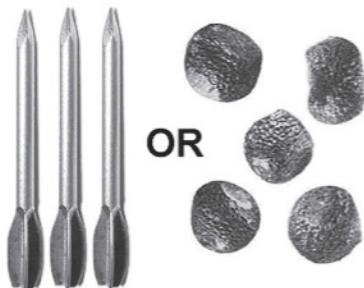
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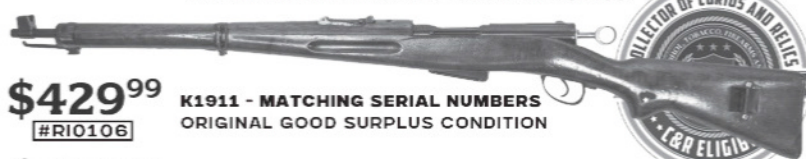
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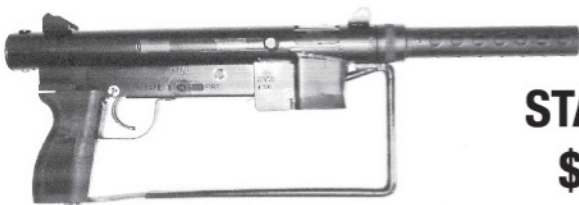
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- 2. Publication Number**
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- 3. Filing Date**
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- 4. Issue Frequency**
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- 5. Number of Issues Published Annually**
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- 6. Annual Subscription Price**
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- 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication**
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- 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher**
Outdoor Sportsman Group
1040 6th Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-3703
- 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor**
Publisher: Christopher Agnes
2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614
Editor: Vincent L. DeNiro
2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614
Production Manager: Terry Boyer
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- 10. Owner**
Outdoor Sportsman Group
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- 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities**
None
- 12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates)**
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months
- 13. Publication Title**
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- 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below**
October 2024 / Issue 10
- 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation**

	AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS	NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE
a) Total Number of Copies	81,711	85,060
b) Paid Circulation		
1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	66,822	68,652
2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	2,957	3,200
4) By Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	0	0
c) Total Paid Distribution	69,780	71,852
d) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		
1) Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	101	106
2) In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
3) Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	0	0
4) Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	260	289
e) Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	361	395
f) Total Distribution	70,140	72,247
g) Copies Not Distributed	11,828	13,102
h) Total	81,968	85,349
i) Percent Paid	99.49%	99.45%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		
a) Paid Electronic Copies	415	441
b) Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies	70,194	72,293
c) Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies	70,555	72,688
d) Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies)	99.49%	99.46%
☒ I certify that 50% of all my distribution copies (Electronic and Print) are paid above a nominal price		
17. This statement of ownership will be printed in the Nov. 2024 / Issue 11 issue of this publication.		
18. Signed Peter Watt, Vice President, Consumer Marketing Date 10/01/2024		

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