

# FIREARMS NEWS<sup>®</sup>

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2025

PATRICK SWEENEY REVIEWS THE

RUGER

# RXM

**PISTOL**  
PERFECTION,  
FINALLY!

WILSON COMBAT'S  
**EDC X9**  
2.0 PISTOL

THE FABARM  
**STF/12 SHOTGUN:**  
TACTICAL MODULARITY

ITALY LEGALIZES  
**.50 BMG**  
FOR CIVILIANS!  
AND A LOOK AT VICTRIX  
.50 BMG RIFLES!

SMITH & WESSON'S  
**M&P 2.0**  
COMPETITOR PISTOL  
WIN THE MATCH, WIN THE FIGHT!

**SPUTNIK, THE COLD WAR,  
AND INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING**  
DWIGHT EISENHOWER CREATED  
THE ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT WITH  
ONE MISSION IN MIND, BEAT THE RUSSIANS!

■ **CARRYING  
CONCEALED**  
CCW HOLSTER  
BASICS 411

■ **IN HUSHED TONES**  
B&T IMPULS IIA  
SUPPRESSOR

■ **MUSINGS FROM  
THE AMMO BUNKER**  
WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM  
THE SOVIET 9X39MM?

■ **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS**  
SOVIET SUPER SCOPE:  
THE PSO-1

■ **THE WAR GUNS**  
WHAT'S A WERDER RIFLE?

■ **THE KNOX REPORT**  
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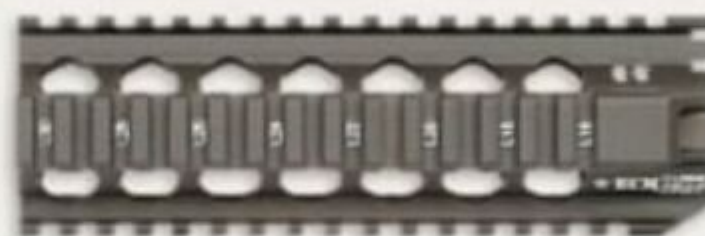
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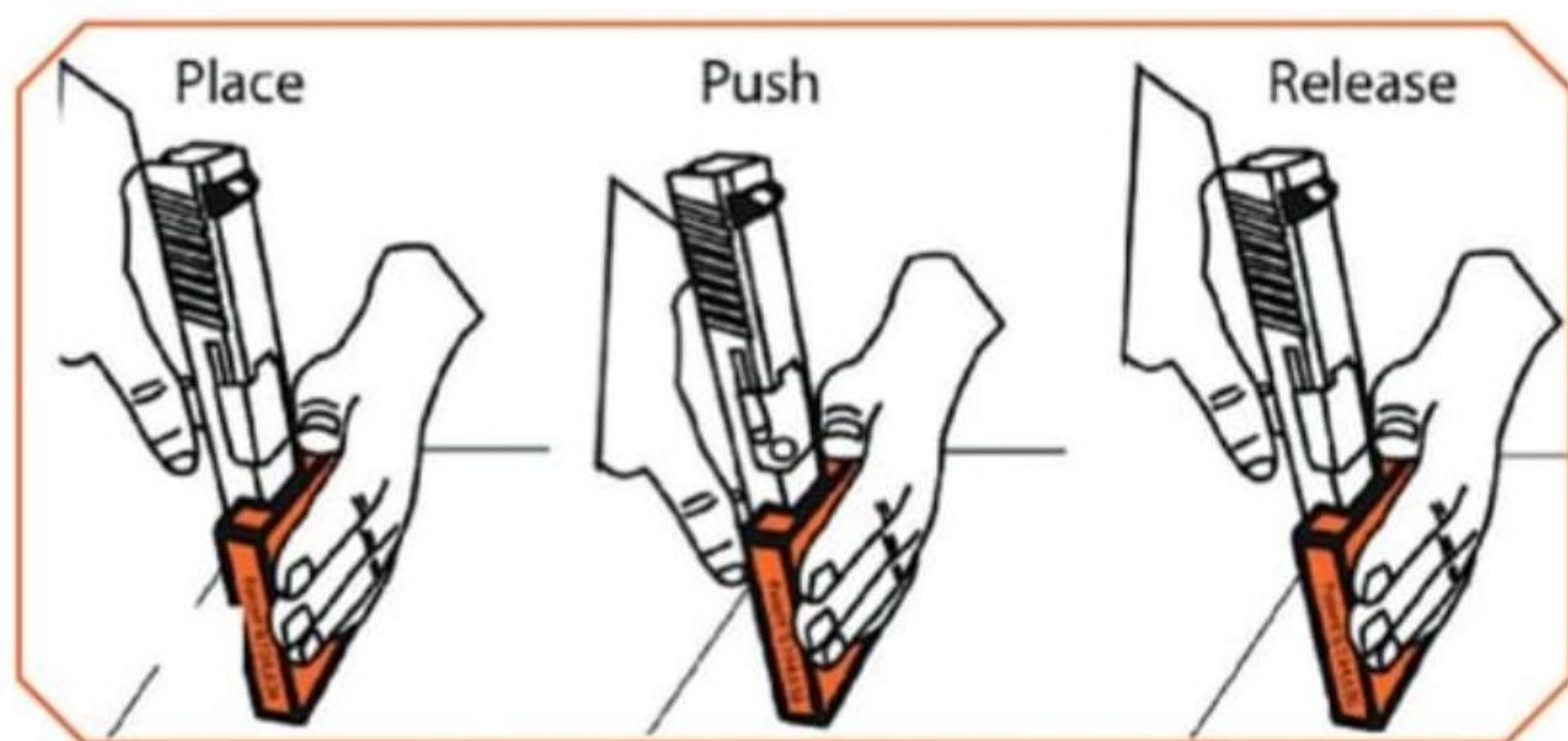


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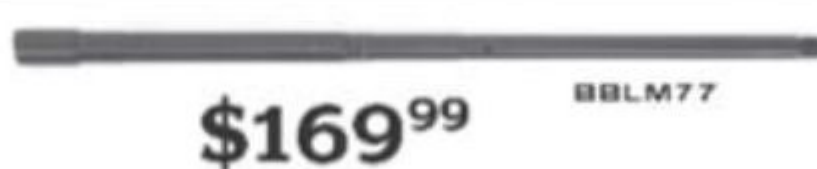


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# JUDGE RULES AMERICAN GUN MANUFACTURERS ARE PROTECTED FROM FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

By Darwin Nercesian

**O**n December 2, California Superior Court Judge Wendy Behan summarily dismissed a lawsuit against firearms manufacturer Smith & Wesson, which in reality, was intended to cripple the firearms industry in America as a whole. The lawsuit was filed by Brady Legal, the division of the Brady Group responsible for all their frivolous legal actions. Through incomprehensible mental gymnastics, the suit alleges that Smith & Wesson, including a host of others named as defendants, are in some way accountable for the April 2019 synagogue shooting in Poway, California, leaving one worshipper dead and three others wounded.

The truth is that the shooting was carried out by John Earnest, a crazed anti-Semitic who said, “I can only kill so many Jews” and “I only wish I killed more.” Earnest is a guest of the taxpayer now for the remainder of his life, without parole. Not a group that would allow a tragedy to go to waste, Brady was quick to stand upon the grave in furtherance of its anti-Second Amendment agenda, attempting to breach the wall protecting the firearms industry from lawsuits based on the misuse of their products.

The group brought the complaint against Smith & Wesson in June 2020, alleging that the manufacturer designed, built, and marketed its rifle to inspire and enable the tragic criminality at the synagogue by allowing Earnest to live out his sick fantasy, laying on the contrived incendiary language so thick that it comes off campy.

“The Shooter used a SMITH & WESSON M&P AR-15 style



*Shutterstock By Jiri Hera*

rifle (the “Rifle”) to engage in a mass shooting on April 27, 2019 — a military-style assault on the worshippers at the Chabad of Poway synagogue (the “Incident”)....

The Incident was foreseeable.

The negligent and unlawful actions of Defendants ... enabled the Shooter to transform his dark fantasies into a lethal reality by designing, marketing, distributing, and ultimately placing in the Shooter’s hands a highly lethal weapon — the Rifle...

[S&W] negligently and intentionally designed and manufactured a military-style assault rifle that could easily be effective in mass attacks on people, and ... marketed its military-style assault rifle in a way that attracted impulsive young men with military complexes [?] who were particularly likely to be attracted to the unique

ability of AR-15 style weapons [that were] unreasonably distributed and sold ... to the public without reasonable safeguards to keep [them] out of dangerous hands.”

After waving off the absurdity of the lawsuit, Judge Behan reviewed the PLCAA for Brady Legal, reminding them that Congress created broad immunity for firearm manufacturers to protect them specifically from frivolous lawsuits such as this one.

“The Court finds that the claims asserted are immune under the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA),” said Judge Behan.

In explaining her decision, Judge Behan crushed Brady’s preposterous arguments with a healthy dose of reality.

“The undisputed evidence shows the rifle lacked any features that would classify it as an assault weapon, and there is no legal basis to claim it becomes one simply because it could be modified post-sale.... The evidence remains undisputed that Smith &



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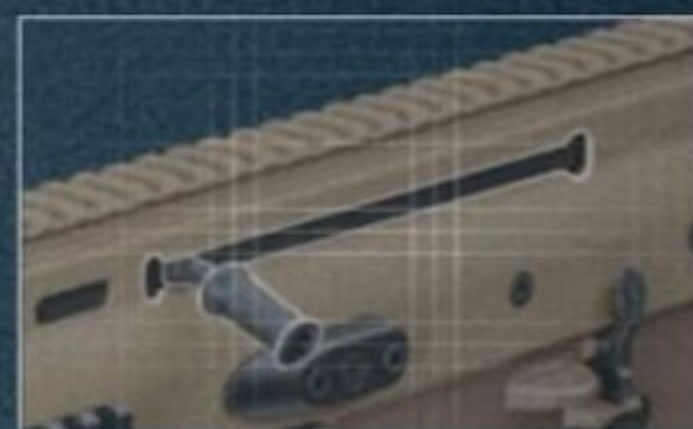
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Wesson ... manufactured the rifle as a semi-automatic firearm, and the shooter used the rifle as a semi-automatic firearm.”

Judge Wendy Behan, however, was not finished, turning her sights to the notion of a “causative” link between Smith & Wesson and the attack.

“There is a significant causation issue.... Proximate cause requires a direct, unbroken link between the violation and the injury.... [T]he evidence shows that the shooter did not modify the rifle’s grip to enable a rapid-fire shooting, making it unreasonable for a jury to conclude that his ability to modify the grip — something he did not do — was a factor in his attack on the synagogue... Additionally, it is unjust to hold S&W liable for injuries stemming

from a grip modification that played no role in the harm suffered by the plaintiffs.”

Much like a Comedy Central roast, the hits kept coming, with the good judge adding salt to the open wound by massacring Brady’s claim that Smith & Wesson’s advertising was accountable for the attack.

“Plaintiffs claim that specific advertisements, such as ‘The Chosen One,’ falsely imply extensive use by police agencies, and suggest that S&W’s marketing promotes unlawful use of its products.... The shooter was no doubt ‘aware of Smith & Wesson.’ ... After all, he purchased a S&W firearm. However, Plaintiffs make a leap in logic in arguing that the shooter’s mere knowledge of the S&W brand shows he was motivated to act

criminally... [T]here is no evidence linking the shooter’s actions directly to these advertisements.”

And the final nail.

“Based on the above, the Court finds in favor of [defendants] and GRANTS [them] summary judgment.”

Judge Behan’s timing of the dismissal is impeccable as the United States Supreme Court prepares to determine whether it will hear Mexico’s case against American gun manufacturers, a complaint that rests on the same imbecilic arguments as this Brady abomination. I, for one, pray our southern neighbors get a scolding and a stiff lesson in the values of liberty that their own citizens seem to line up for in droves at the border. **FN**

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FIREARM BAN BEFORE THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

By Darwin Nercesian

**T**he federal government has asked a Fifth Circuit panel to rule it may legally disarm citizens under domestic violence protective orders without any explicit finding that the person poses a credible threat of violence.

Wait, did I read that correctly?

Before we can even discuss the facts and history of the case, we have to ask ourselves if society and the judicial system have been dumbed down so far that we can’t see problems with this on its face.

The first hurdle that the judicial system must be intellectually accountable for is how a domestic violence protective order can be issued against a person who has not been found to pose a violent threat in the first place. Since this makes zero sense in the universe we occupy, I’ll share an



*Shutterstock By Andrey\_Popov*

example of how the judicial system has intentionally perverted definitions to suit a more sinister agenda.

California family court law allows judges to issue an ex parte domestic violence restraining order against an individual for what the state refers to as destroying “the mental or emotional

calm of the other party.” Ex parte means that one party asks the court for an order without notice to the other or the opportunity for that party to respond. Ex parte applications are meant for use in emergencies without enough time to hear a regularly noticed motion.

*[Cont. to page 90]*





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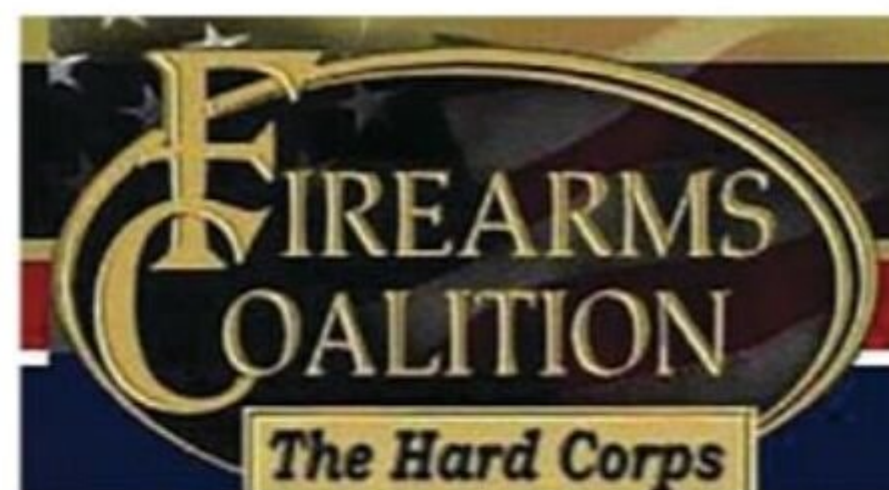


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# PROJECT 2025: THE SECOND AMENDMENT EDITION



**W**ith the election of President Trump and Republican majorities in the US House and Senate, a lot of people are asking the same question: “*Now what?*”

Budget and economic issues, as well as securing the border and cooling international hot spots are likely to take precedence over expanding the right to arms. Nonetheless, there is much that President Trump and the new Republican majority can and should do as early as possible to protect and expand our Second Amendment rights. Given the credible of genuine civil insurrection by the left—or worse, by hostile foreign actors who crossed the border illegally—expansion of gun rights is a key to domestic security.

The battle starts with rolling back Biden’s executive orders and enforcement instructions to the bureaucrats in Washington and across the country. The Biden executive orders were implemented unilaterally, and they can be unilaterally reversed by President Trump.

- **Common Sense Law Enforcement**

At the top of the list is Joe Biden’s so-called “zero tolerance” policy regarding gun dealers. No one supports arming gangbangers and drug dealers, but Biden’s destructive policy misses that target while focusing on innocent gun dealers who have made paperwork errors. President Trump can, and should, stop that abusive policy on day one with the stroke of his pen.

- **Reform BATFE from the Top**

As part of his effort to refocus the BATFE mission on preventing and solving crime, Mr. Trump must

remove the BATFE Director Steve Dettelbach and top managers who have demonstrated their eagerness to restrict Americans’ rights and make criminals of the law-abiding.

- **Personally-Made Firearms Reform**

Recent regulatory changes regarding personally-made firearms and kits need to be repealed, along with a revamping of the 4473 and dealer retention requirements.

- **Withdrawal from the UN Arms Trade Treaty**

The ATT requires that countries destroy surplus arms and ammunition, rather than selling it—even to customers like the US civilian market, where our export laws are stricter than those mandated in the ATT. This explains the disappearance of cheap, surplus ammo and parts kits.

President Trump should again withdraw all US support and agreement with the UN Arms Trade Treaty and instruct his UN Ambassador to work on ways to disassemble that outrageous assault on the right to self-defense and self-determination, not only as it applies to us here in the US, but around the world. While President Trump will almost certainly step away from that treaty once again, we need him to go further and, at a minimum, work toward exceptions in the treaty for sales to the US civilian market.

- **Disband the Office of Gun Violence Prevention**

The President needs to disband all federal government offices and programs that focus on blaming guns

and gun owners for criminal misuse of guns, such as the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Instead of focusing on the tools used by criminals, the focus must return to the criminals themselves.

Those are some of the “easy” gun rights things President Trump could, and should, act on right away. Other actions will require the support of Congress, and even though Republicans will have majorities in both houses, getting significant improvements pushed through won’t be a simple matter. Passing good legislation out of the House should be very doable, but in the Senate, the bar remains at 60 votes to bring a bill to a final vote, and Republicans will have only 52 or 53 seats, including a couple that are not particularly solid on Second Amendment issues. At the same time, the number of Democratic senators who have leaned toward support of the Second Amendment has declined.

Getting anything of substance through the Senate will be difficult, if not impossible, but that’s no excuse for not trying. A good bill that fails will force record votes that can be used against anti-rights senators in coming elections.

On the agenda:

- **Federal Land Reform**

All generally accessible federal lands should conform to state firearm regulations, just as was done with National Parks. This would include wildlife refuges, national monuments, and all lands overseen by the TVA





# 1911

## OPTICS READY



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and Corps of Engineers. This bill should also include provisions to open up more public lands to shooting and hunting and end all blanket bans on guns in federal buildings. If a building, part of a building, or particular fenced area of federal land, can justifiably be designated as a “sensitive place,” only that specific portion should be restricted, and must have limited access and security in place in order to enforce restrictions.

- **National CCW Reciprocity and Expansion of “Safe Transit” Protections**

Prior to passage of the 1986 Firearms Owners Protection Act, a traveler driving through East St. Louis on I-70 could be held in violation of that city’s handgun ban for a cased and unloaded pistol in the trunk. Current law protects someone traveling through a restrictive state or municipality, as long as the “illegal” guns are “legal” where the person is coming from and going to, and they’re unloaded, locked in the trunk, and the traveler keeps moving straight through the state, only stopping briefly for gas, food, bathroom, etc.

This was a huge improvement when my father proposed it back in 1979, but falls short in the real world. We’ve seen problems with trucks, motorcycles, and other vehicles that don’t have trunks or other acceptable “locking compartments,” and there have been multiple issues with the “legal at point of origin and destination” requirements, as well as many problems in what defines a “brief” stop.

The revised version should do away with the “legal at destination” requirement altogether, and revise the “brief stops” language to a limited time-frame of a week or two for a visit. Accessories such as ammunition, magazines, and anything else that some jurisdictions have decided are evil, should be added into the language, so a person can’t be prosecuted for having the “wrong” bullets or a magazine with “too much” capacity.

This is where a form of federal CCW reciprocity could also be slipped in. While the idea of national reciprocity—or better yet, Constitutional Carry—is very popular among gun voters, the concept runs into significant problems with the Constitution, as it violates the principles of federalism. In short, the Constitution prohibits the federal government from handing down mandates to the states. If the Supreme Court were to rule that state gun control laws are unconstitutional, that would settle these matters, but Congress can’t just declare that states must recognize other states carry licenses. Such a law would very likely be struck down by the Supreme Court. Ideally, states would enter compacts agreeing to recognize each other’s CCW’s, as they have done with Drivers Licenses, but that’s not going to happen.

Adding expanded “safe travel” protections which include the requirement that CCW’s from a traveler’s home state be honored, could be justified under the Constitution’s Commerce Clause. Trying to mandate more than that would be doomed to failure.

Any “safe travel” reform should also include a presumption of innocence clause to give extra protections to someone who just made an honest mistake. No one should face felony charges for taking the wrong exit or erroneously misconstruing the scope of their CCW.

- **Post Office Gun Reform**

End the arbitrary ban on firearms in and around post offices, and require the US Post Office to accept unloaded, disassembled firearms for shipment through the US Mail.

- **Actually “Fix NICS.”**

I don’t like NICS. I think it’s a huge waste of money and resources, and it is rife with problems and constitutional issues. There is zero chance of repealing or removing NICS though,

so it makes sense to make it as simple, efficient, and fair as possible.

Erroneous denials and delays must be addressed by removing “unresolved” arrest data once it’s been investigated and no conviction or other prohibiting resolution is found. Restrictions on interstate firearm sales by licensed dealers when NICS is used, must also be repealed.

One idea that friends have promoted is what they call the BIDS system, which would give gun dealers access to a database of “prohibited persons.” That system would solve a lot of problems and save a lot of time and money, but there are privacy issues, and it is still a system that singles out gun buyers every time they seek to make a purchase.

Another option that I’ve been talking about since NICS was first suggested, is the inclusion on drivers licenses of a code, such as a green “G” in the corner, indicating that a background check has been completed and the individual is cleared for firearm purchases.

The “Green G” system would include an automatic NICS check on every DL application unless the person making the application specifically opts out. This would result in most people having the NICS check automatically done and the code added to their DL, but since people can opt-out and choose to have the code omitted from their license, the privacy rights of “prohibited persons” would not be violated. The “G” would indicate that the person is “cleared,” but not having the “G” would not indicate that the person is necessarily a “bad guy,” just that they did not have their status verified.

If a person were to become a “prohibited person,” the judge who made that determination would immediately remove the code with a hole punch and transmit the adjudication to NICS so any future license would not include the code unless the prohibition was removed.





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As long as the code is present on a person's DL, any dealer or private citizen could legally transfer a firearm to that person without concern or delay.

This NICS replacement could be incorporated into the current push to transition to "Travel ID's" and would eventually result in a huge decline in the required staffing for the NICS system.

Another provision that could be included in this bill would be the recognition of 18, 19, and 20-year-olds as adults who can legally purchase and possess firearms.

- **Reform ITAR**

The International Trade in Arms Rule and other import/export laws are full of ambiguities and confusion, removing "open source" information and products from import/export restriction, and taking all firearm import/export authority away from the Department of State.

- **Repeal the Lautenberg Amendment**

If a crime justifies the permanent loss of an enumerated constitutional right, that crime should be a felony. If it's not a felony, it should not permanently abrogate rights. Naturally the other side will say that we favor arming domestic abusers. The proper response is that genuine abuse should not be plea-bargained to a misdemeanor.

- **Add "Mens Rea" Provisions to All Gun Laws**

The object of gun control laws is supposed to be to reduce violent crime by keeping guns out of the hands of violent criminals, not to serve as a "gotcha" against people trying to exercise their rights. If the person was in violation of some gun law, but wasn't hurting or enabling the hurting of anyone, and had no intention to commit any other crime, they should not be prosecuted as some sort of dangerous criminal. A guy building

and testing a silencer in his garage for his own amusement and education should not be treated more harshly than a rapist.

## **THE NFA: IT'S NOT GOING TO BE REPEALED BY CONGRESS, SO LET'S MAKE SOME IMPROVEMENTS:**

- **Deregulate Silencers**

Silencers should not be restricted under the NFA, nor should they be treated like firearms. They are safety devices, not guns. Legislation seeking to deregulate silencers should not start with the proposal to treat them like handguns. That should be a reluctant fallback option, only resorted to if that's the only way to get them removed from the NFA.

- **Remove Short Barreled Rifles and Short Barreled Shotguns from the NFA**

Treat them like any other rifle, shotgun, or handgun. At the same time, remove distinctions and definitions that treat rifles, shotguns, and handguns differently for other than statistical purposes. Again, the fallback position would be to reduce the barrel length standard to 14 inches, but the whole idea of any distinction between types of firearms is just silly from the start.

- **Repeal the Hughes Amendment**

Machine guns and submachine guns have never been significantly involved in violent crime. Even in the 1930s, gangsters like Bonnie and Clyde, and Machinegun Kelly tended to get their machineguns by stealing them from the police and military. Machine guns used in violent crime in recent decades have virtually always been illegal, unreliable conversions using either homemade parts or parts illegally imported and sold over the internet. It's time to: "*86 the Ban!*" Then-Speaker Newt Gingrich promised Neal Knox he would work to repeal the Hughes Amendment in

1986, but, like so many other promises from Republicans, it never came about.

These are my top ideas for whittling back current gun control laws. You might notice that in several instances I combined multiple ideas into one proposal, and I would suggest taking that a step further. I think all of these proposals should be introduced as stand-alone bills, but I think they should also be combined into one or two omnibus bills. Perhaps package all of the bills dealing with the Gun Control Act and the Brady Act under one heading, and all of those dealing with the NFA under another.

The advantage of combining reform legislation, is that it gives gun voters a central rallying point, as happened with the introduction and promotion of the Firearm Owners Protection Act in the late '70s and '80s. Having all of the legislation wrapped up in one comprehensive package broadens gun voter support for the whole package and avoids the trap of dividing our troops. If there comes a point where some particular aspect of an omnibus bill is the key sticking point, we can consider dropping that provision in order to move the rest, then come back for the lost portion in the next session.

Like most of you, I don't like gun control laws. I think most of them are unconstitutional on their face and should be repealed. Hopefully, the Supreme Court will eventually agree with us and declare these laws null and void. However, until that happens, we can't ignore the political reality that we can only accomplish what we can convince Congress to agree to. We might not win everything we want, but we can fight to take back lost ground one piece at a time, the same way we lost it.

What did I miss? Are there particular improvements you would like to see that I didn't mention? Let me know about them at Firearms Coalition.org. 





A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a handgun. The person has extensive tattoos on their forearms and is wearing a smartwatch on their left wrist. The background is dark and out of focus.

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# CCW HOLSTER BASICS 411

**H**ere are just a few tips for those of you new to concealed carry, or who are thinking about buying a new holster, or carrying in a different way. Let me quickly cover the basic types of CCW holster, differentiated by where they go on your body, their pros and cons, and a few things I've learned over 30+ years of daily carry:

## Outside the Waistband (OWB)

This is the easiest and most comfortable way to carry a gun at your waistband, especially a big gun, which of course means it is the single hardest way to conceal a pistol. You will need a covering garment and have to dress around the gun. Holsters can position the gun at various angles, somewhere between vertical and what's called the "FBI cant," which tilts the butt forward and points the muzzle to the rear, which is somewhat easier to conceal and, depending, doesn't slow down your draw much. OWB holsters are positioned somewhere between 3 o'clock and 4:30 on your waist (if you're a right-hander). I'm a large size who has to buy XL shirts to conceal my full-size gun carried vertically at 3 o'clock. Over the years, I've run Milt Sparks, Galco, and Simply Rugged leather holsters, a Kramer horsehide Vertical Scabbard, and polymer and Kydex holsters from BlackPoint Tactical, Uncle Mike's, Galco, Blade-Tech, and probably half a dozen others. Currently, I'm running a Safariland 5198 for my daily carry Glock 17 Gen 5, and it's the fastest OWB holster I've run that isn't a rig specifically intended for IDPA/USPA competition.

## Inside the Waistband (IWB)

Carrying a gun inside your pants isn't quite as comfortable as outside,



**Appendix inside-the-waistband (AIWB) holsters, like this Galco Paragon, are the hottest holsters at the moment, because they allow you to more easily hide bigger guns at your waistline—while offering safety issues for some people because of where the gun is pointed. (Photo by Yamil Sued)**



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**OWB (outside-the-waistband) belt holsters like this Safariland 5198 are the easiest and most comfortable way to carry a pistol on your hip, but they are the hardest to conceal.**

but makes it much easier to conceal. You'll need to get pants a couple inches larger than you normally wear to make room for the gun and holster, and you'll need that same extra length in your belt. Even if the holster has clips, you'll likely need a belt to help distribute the weight and keep your pants from sagging. As that holster is closer to your body, with likely only underwear between it and you, you might find you prefer something softer and/or with more give than polymer. Some IWB holsters (Crossbreed, etc.) have soft breathable padding on the inside, making extended wear much more comfortable.

The mouth of soft holsters might collapse after your draw, so when practicing you can't "no look" reholster, you'll need to use two hands and look the gun back into the holster—just something to think about. This isn't an issue in a real defensive situation where you wouldn't be even thinking about putting your gun away until the threat is past.

When carrying IWB I can't comfortably carry compact guns—due to the curve of my hip, shorter guns dig

**Even inside one type of holster (OWB in this case), there are a lot of variations. The Crossbreed on the left has a long leather backer that curves around your hip and exposes the muzzle. The all-polymer Blade Tech on the right has a much narrower belt loop and covers the muzzle.**



their muzzles directly into me. For IWB I need to carry something with a barrel length over four inches. The only way you'll know if you suffer a similar (or different) complication is by carrying various guns in various holsters, at length. Sitting in chairs, or in a car, is a good way to quickly learn if your holster fits you.

### Appendix Carry

Appendix carry is also known as appendix inside the Waistband (AIWB). AIWB is nothing new, but it is currently all the rage. I think this is because it is the most comfortable way to carry a large gun inside your pants in a way that is very easily concealable. Most of the time, you can stick a compact or full-size pistol down the front of your pants (center or right of center) and can effectively conceal it with just a t-shirt and get it out very quickly. Most of the new holsters being introduced lately are intended for AIWB. Twenty years ago, you truly would be hard-pressed to find one dedicated AIWB holster, and now pretty much every holster company makes them.

I don't AIWB carry or recommend it for two reasons. One, I've never found it comfortable no matter which holster I've tried, and two, most importantly, AIWB carry violates one of the four basic rules of gun safety, namely never pointing your gun at something you don't intend to destroy. If you're going to do it, be very careful getting that gun in and out of the holster.

### Shoulder Holster

Somewhat popular back in the 70s and 80s, these have fallen out of fashion because you need to wear something to cover them—not necessarily a suitcoat, but maybe a jacket, or a bulky sweatshirt that you'll have to reach up under. It positions the gun vertically or horizontally under one armpit, and usually a spare magazine or two under the other, and you can carry and conceal a full-size gun. Galco's Miami Classic II is the shoulder holster against which all others are and should be judged—Don Johnson was running an early version of this as Sonny Crockett on *Miami Vice*, and that's



**Galco's Miami Classic II is the shoulder holster against which all others are judged. It's named after the early version of the rig worn by Don Johnson on *Miami Vice*. Here is the actual holster he wore during seasons three through five for his S&W 645/4506.**



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**Ankle holsters are more for deep concealment than speed. They're slow to draw from, and you're relegated to small pistols. This version from Uncle Mike's has a suspension gaiter.**



**If you conceal carry regularly at all you'll end up with a box in your basement or garage stuffed with holsters that didn't work out, for one reason or another.**

how it got its name. Today, these are more popular for hunters in the field than they are for CCW.

### Pocket Holster

This is self-explanatory. Some people just stick small guns in their pocket, but a dedicated pocket holster keeps that gun oriented correctly and keeps foreign objects out of the trigger guard. Most of them have some sort of sticky exterior so that when you draw the gun the holster stays in your pocket. Highly recommend, no matter who makes them.

### Ankle Holster

These have fallen out of fashion for three reasons. First, they are the slowest type to draw from of any body-worn holster. Secondly, you're relegated to small, light guns. Third,

actual fashion—everyone is wearing tights or skinny jeans. You need loose if not downright baggy pants if you want to conceal a pistol at your ankle, and then anything beyond a fast walk will be problematic. However, nobody expects ankle holsters these days, so you'll have that going for you.

### Thoughts

Just like you really won't know if you'll like a gun until you shoot it, there's no way to know if a holster is right for you until you carry a gun in it for a week or a month. Whatever works for you, that is comfortable to wear and easy to draw from, is the right holster for you—because then you're much more likely to be

carrying a gun, and the #1 rule of a gunfight is: have a gun.  
If you conceal carry regularly at all you'll end up with a box in your basement or garage stuffed with holsters that didn't work out, for one reason or another, but that's not a bad thing—just consider it hard evidence that you were walking the walk. **TM**

| SOURCES             |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Blade Tech          | Blade-Tech.com         |
| Crossbreed Holsters | CrossbreedHolsters.com |
| DeSantis Gunhide    | DeSantisHolster.com    |
| Falco Holsters      | FalcoHolsters.com      |
| Galco Gunleather    | GalcoGunleather.com    |
| Kramer Leather      | KramerLeather.com      |
| Safariland          | Safariland.com         |
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# WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE 9X39MM?

## Are There Lessons We Can Learn From This Soviet Medium-Bore Subsonic Cartridge?

**B**ack in 2018, Wolf Performance Ammunition made a splash by bringing the Soviet 9x39mm subsonic cartridge to the US commercial market. Developed for Russian special operations, the cartridge had both historical and practical appeal to U.S. shooters and collectors. While its future initially looked very bright, the ban on imported Russian ammunition seems to have killed it off on the US commercial market. My question though, are there lessons we can learn from this medium-bore subsonic cartridge?

The 9x39mm is an intermediate-size cartridge developed from the Soviet 7.62x39mm M43 cartridge case. Unlike its parent though, the 9x39mm is a subsonic design developed expressly for use suppressed. It maintains the same 0.447-inch case head and 2.2-inch overall length, but



**The 9x39mm, seen here in its commercial loading, was developed as a specialized subsonic cartridge for use by Russian Special Operations. (Photo by David Fortier)**

operations. It was designed to be a replacement for the 7.62x39mm 57-N-231U subsonic cartridge. This had been developed in the mid-1950s, officially adopted by the Soviet Army

sonic load. Bullet weight, diameter, and velocity are all almost identical. PBS equipped AKM rifles with 7.62x39mm 57-N-231U subsonic ammunition saw service in various hot spots, including heavy use by Spetsnaz units during the Soviet's war in Afghanistan. After-action reports from the field though were critical of the terminal performance of the subsonic 7.62x39mm ammunition.

The 9x39mm cartridge and accompanying firearms were developed as improvements over the subsonic 7.62x39mm cartridge/AKM combination. One Spetsnaz officer commented, "The 9x39mm VSS Vintorez rifle is indispensable for urban hostilities, especially at night. Your adversary does not see or hear a thing. One can fire as if you are on a shooting range at distances up to 300 meters." Another commented, "The VSS rifle is ideally suited to execute a classic mission to eliminate a sentry.

## THE CARTRIDGE ITSELF WAS DEVELOPED AT THE REQUEST OF SOVIET SPECIAL OPERATIONS.

the case is necked up to accept larger diameter 0.364-inch projectiles. Wolf's offering consisted of a 278-grain FMJ-BT bimetal projectile loaded into a non-corrosive Berdan primed steel cartridge case. Muzzle velocity is approximately 1,050 fps from a 10.5-inch barrel. The cartridge was optimized for sound and flash reduction from very short barrels fitted with relatively simple sound suppressors.

The cartridge itself was developed at the request of Soviet special

in 1959 and placed into production in 1962. The 7.62x39mm 57-N-231U subsonic cartridge was fielded with standard Kalashnikov rifles fitted with PBS suppressors. This combination was fielded by special units of the Soviet Army throughout much of the Cold War.

Performance wise, the 7.62x39mm 57-N-231U subsonic load fired a .31-caliber 194-grain FMJ-BT projectile at approximately 989 fps. Basically, this load is equivalent to a modern 300 AAC Blackout sub-



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After receiving the 9x39mm VSS rifles, I immediately sent all my 7.62x39mm AKMs with PBS silencers back to storage.” During the Second Chechen War (1999–2000), one Russian marksman, armed with a 9x39mm VSS rifle

expand to approximately .35 to .37 caliber. This is the diameter the 9x39mm starts out at. A proper expanding 9x39mm projectile would further increase its terminal performance advantage.

relatively simple suppressors. Muzzle flash is basically eliminated in my experience. This makes it difficult to locate the rifleman. Terminal performance is a step-up from traditional .30-caliber subsonic loads.

## THE 9X39MM HAS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.

and laying in ambush, managed to eliminate a whole enemy unit before they could locate his firing position.

Comparing subsonic 300 BLK loads to the subsonic 9x39mm commercial load, the advantage goes to the 9x39mm. Since velocity is basically identical, it is not a factor. The 9x39mm’s performance advantages come through its larger diameter and significantly heavier projectile. One advantage is muzzle energy with a 278-grain generating 681 ft/lbs. compared to a 200-grain 300 BLK at 490 ft/lbs. Moving from 0.308-inch up to 0.364-inch is a noticeable increase, especially with projectiles which do not expand but only yaw. Most conventional expanding 300 BLK subsonic loads will only reliably

The 9x39mm has proven successful for its intended purpose. The sound signature is very mild, even from

The 9x39mm puts a larger diameter and heavier payload on target. For certain military scenarios this type of cartridge teamed with a thermal scope and accurate semi-auto rifle would be very useful. For hunters a medium-bore subsonic cartridge like the 9x39mm would offer advantages over the 300 Blackout and perhaps the new 338 ARC.

What do you think? If you have any thoughts or comments on this article, we’d love to hear them. Email us at [FirearmsNews@OutdoorSG.com](mailto:FirearmsNews@OutdoorSG.com). 



The (L to R) 6.5mm Grendel, 7.62x39mm and 9x39mm are all built on the same basic case. On right is a 300 AAC BLK. (Photo by David Fortier)

A 278-grain 9x39mm at 1,050 fps generates 681 ft/lbs of energy

A 200-grain 300 BLK at 1,050 fps generates 490 ft/lbs of energy



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# SOVIET SUPER SCOPE: THE PSO-1

In 1963, the Soviets Introduced a Sniper Scope So Advanced it Was Without Peer!



**Evgeniy Fyodorovich Dragunov, at Harikov KGB USSR Academy shooting range in 1984, firing an SVD topped with a PSO-1 scope. (Photo courtesy of Mikhail Dragunov)**

**U**S Army snipers are currently lavishly equipped with a host of ultra-modern state-of-the-art rifles, optics and ancillary gear. However, while it may come as a surprise to some unfamiliar with military history, this has certainly not always been the case. There were decades when the US Army and USMC largely ignored sniping and sniper equipment. In the 1960s, it was the Soviets, not the US, who fielded the most advanced sniper system in the world. A key part of this system was a highly advanced optical sight, the PSO-1 or Pritsel Snaypersky Optichesky (Sniper Optic Sight) which we'll exam here.

Let me preface this discussion by saying it's very important to consider this optic through the lens of the time period in which it was developed and fielded, rather than from the standpoint of today in 2025. It also needs to be compared to other military sniper scopes fielded in the 1950s and

1960s. In the case of the US and England, they were leftovers from World War II and the Korean War. In my opinion, it is the attention to detail in all the small features of this optic which sets it apart from its peers and makes it an interesting case study.

Introduced into Soviet service with the SVD-63 (Snayperskaya Vintovka Dragunova-Dragunov Sniper Rifle) rifle in July 1963, the PSO-1 was shockingly advanced for its time. It incorporated features American and British sniper scopes would lack for decades. A relatively compact optic, it has a 24mm objective lens, fixed 4x magnification, and a six-degree field of view. This combination gives it a wide FOV for observing and scanning, good lowlight performance with a 6mm exit pupil, and enough magnification for the distances Soviet snipers typically engaged at during World War II (600 meters and in with the vast majority of shots made at 400 meters and in). While resolution

is good, the objective lens is purposely kept a reasonable size to help prevent glare off it from disclosing the sniper's position.

For the time period, two remarkable features of this optic are its ability to "see" and engage infrared light sources and it having an illuminated Mil reticle. Both Germany (StG 44 with Zielgerät 1229 Vampir IR aiming device) and the US (M3 Sniperscope) had fielded active-infrared night vision devices during World War II. These early Generation "0" devices utilized an IR spotlight which projected a beam of light invisible to the naked eye, but visible through the weapon sight. US troops had proven the effectiveness of these early units in 1945 during the invasion of Okinawa. Being able to effectively fight at night was quickly becoming an important ability.

By simply rotating a lever on the PSO-1 scope's tube, a Soviet sniper could not only detect active IR light





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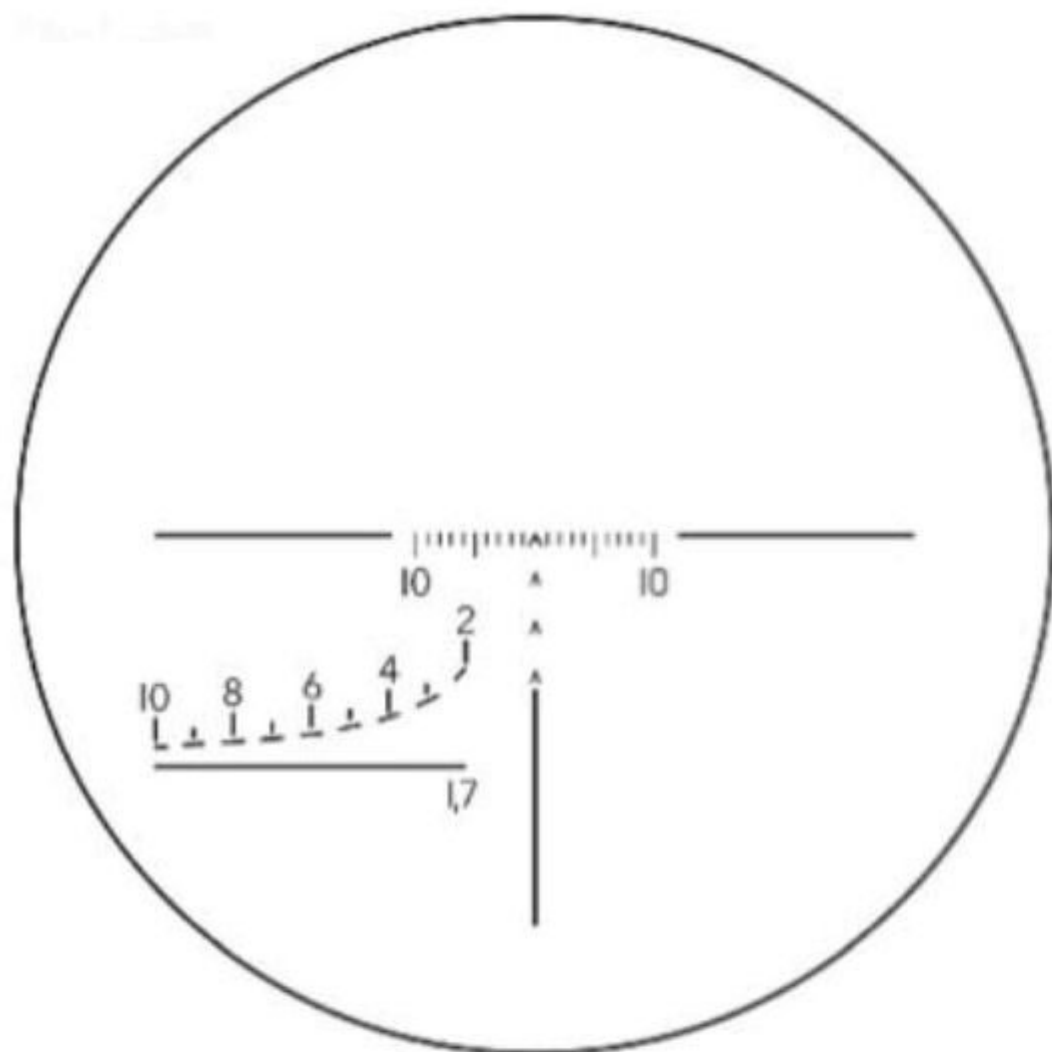
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**The PSO-1's reticle is Mil based and features a center aiming chevron with Mil marks for windage/lead. Note the "choke" rangefinder.**



**A number of copies and commercial variants of the PSO-1 were produced with a commercial model manufactured by NPZ of Novosibirsk, Russia seen here.**

sources, but also engage them. Flipping a switch on the integral mount illuminates the scope's reticle allowing targets to be engaged in lowlight. These features provided the Soviet sniper with the ability to "fight at night." It would be decades before American and British snipers would receive scopes with illuminated reticles.

Ballistic adjustments are made via uncapped easy to read turrets. The single-rotation elevation turret features a Bullet Drop Compensator with settings from 100 to 1,000 meters. Adjustments from 100 to 300 meters are made in 100 meter increments with adjustments in 50 meter increments thereafter. Rotating the turret clockwise raises the point of impact, and a stop is incorporated allowing a quick return to zero. Windage adjustments are delineated in Mils. One click provides .5 Mil of adjustment. Typical of a scope designed in the late 1950s though, the PSO-1's reticle is non-centered and moves in the FOV as adjustments are made.

The reticle is a very user-friendly forward-thinking design which incorporates the ability to range targets, and is intended to provide rapid hits on stationary and moving targets under real world field conditions. The design of the reticle was based upon combat experience gained during

World War II. It consists of a center chevron aiming point flanked by 10 Mil marks on either side. Spacing of these marks is 1 Mil center to center. The fifth and tenth Mil marks are slightly longer and have the numeral 5 or 10 beneath them for quick reference. These Mil marks are intended to be used for range finding, windage corrections and lead corrections on a moving target.

Directly below the primary chevron are three additional chevrons arranged vertically for use as holdover aiming points. With the BDC set at 1,000 meters they provide 1,100, 1,200, and 1,300 meter aiming points allowing area fire at extended distances. However, by setting the elevation turret to a shorter distance they can be used for rapid engagement of targets at different distances without having to touch the elevation turret.

In the lower left of the Field of View is a "choke" style rangefinder. It consists of a lower horizontal flat line and an upper curved line which is delineated in 100 meter increments from 200–1,000 meters. Simple in concept, it's designed to range a 5' 7"-tall-standing figure by placing their feet on the bottom line. Where the top of their head/helmet hits the upper curved line is the range they are at. Being able to quickly and accurately

range a target is critical to making first round hits at unknown distances under field conditions. The PSO-1's reticle provided multiple methods for ranging a target.

It was its combination of novel features which set the PSO-1 apart from its peers in 1963. With it, a Soviet sniper could make effective first-round hits at commonly encountered distances in a variety of lighting conditions. He could quickly range targets, dial in elevation, and hold off using the reticle for windage/lead corrections. As the sun faded in the sky, he could illuminate the reticle to keep working. If an IR light source appeared in the darkness, he could put rounds on target.

Was the PSO-1 perfect? No, it's not with perhaps the biggest complaint against it being the 4x magnification. The IR light detector quickly became obsolete and was deleted from later models. The design sparked a number of copies by the Romanians, Yugoslavs, and Chinese as well as a flurry of commercial models. Today, the PSO-1 is a long obsolete old relic from the Cold War. However, it remains an important historical artifact in the progression of rifle scope development. Plus, it can still provide an entertaining day on the range ringing steel. **FM**



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# BRÜGGER & THOMET IMPULS IIA SUPPRESSOR

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**S**ometimes you find out you had a lottery ticket in your pocket all this time. Not the biggest one (or else I'd not be here, writing this) but enough to put a smile on your face. The B&T Impuls IIA here is one such beast.

B&T makes suppressors; we know that. This one is a pistol 9mm suppressor with a booster built into the rear cap. The Impuls IIA is an aluminum tube with stainless steel baffles, and it disassembles for cleaning. (All pistol suppressors must be, or else they stop being effective as suppressors.) The exterior is given a black Cerakote finish, and the end result is supremely durable and manageable. The weight is not out of line with comparable suppressors at three-quarters of a pound. The booster keeps the pistol it is mounted on functioning properly. B&T makes boosters threaded for various thread patterns, and some are even pistol-specific.

B&T lists the reduction of noise as being 31 dB, which means it brings the report of supersonic 9mm ammo down into the tolerable range, and subsonic ammunition into the giggle-worthy range. One interesting detail is built into the booster assembly. The flange of the booster assembly where it locks into the tube is crenelated. That is, it is machined with a gear-like ring around the edge. This gear segment meshes with the similar gear-like arrangement on the back of

**The B&T Impuls IIA came in an HK box and is marked as an HK item. The nylon pouch is nothing tactical, but that's what came with it, so all-original.**

the suppressor tube. This is the point of impact adjustment system, if you find you need one. If you find that putting the Impuls IIA on your pistol shifts the point of impact, then put the pistol on safe. Grab the suppressor tube. Pull it forward (keeping the muzzle in a safe direction and your

finger off of the trigger) and give the Impuls IIA a slight twist. Stop the forward push and finish the twist, and it will click into place into the next set of the teeth. Try checking zero again. With a bit of experimentation



**The rear cap is threaded for whatever thread pattern the contracting agency requires. Most European ones will be left-hand metric, and any sold here in the USA will be 1/2-28 thread pitch.**



**The rear cap holds in the booster. That's the spring-loaded sliding assembly that is required in order to keep a pistol functioning as a semi-auto pistol. You can see the crenellations on the rear of the suppressor tube.**





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The booster and the tube mesh in the crenellations. To adjust point of impact you grab the tube and push forward against the spring, and then give it a small twist to the next notch.



The front cap is the assembly cap installed at the factory. All the internals come out the rear, once you have unscrewed the booster assembly.



While the Impuls IIA is marked as having been made by B&T, it is also marked as something that went through the HK inventory system, because, well, there's the markings.

However, it arrived with an HK VP9 Tactical, which (unsurprisingly) had its extended barrel threaded metric 13.5x1 left-hand.

Testing, blasting, fun and games, and then off the VP9 Tactical went back to HK. That was a while ago.

In contacting B&T for some info, I happened to mention this, and the reaction was, “*You lucky dog.*” Okay, a bit of background. European firearms manufacturers are really strict. If you send in a firearm for a warranty repair, and it had been used with a suppressor on it, and the suppressor isn't one of an approved makers, from an approved list, your warranty repair will be denied. You'll have to pay for fixing it. On the list? B&T. On the approved model list? Impuls IIA. When you order your firearm in Europe (personally or as an agency) if you want it with a suppressor, it will be marked as the firearms maker's model. Apparently, warranties in Europe are held to a much higher standard than over here. (I suspect the use of reloaded ammunition voids most, if not all, warranties by European standards. Too bad, EU, that's what Americans do.) This also explains the various boosters and thread patterns: American, European, pistol-specific. B&T also makes model-specific ones, just in case some agency requests boosters for using the Impuls IIA in their-issued compact Glock instead of on a full-sized G17.

Such contracts will be very specific; a particular pistol, with a stated barrel

length and thread pattern, to be fed a specific, issued, 9mm ammunition, and the full ensemble must be absolutely 100% reliable, or no-go. The winning bid will supply the stated suppressor marked in such a manner as is required by the contract, which is how to say I now have in the safe a B&T Impuls IIA with HK logo on it, in the original HK box. Woo-hoo! HK collectors

you'll find the setting that keeps your pistol and that Impuls IIA both on zero, or as close as the two will ever get. (Which is often very close, if not dead-on) As clever as this system is, it has some limitations. Whichever setting you find is the setting for *your* pistol and *that* Impuls IIA. It might even be ammunition-specific, so if you change loads or brands you might find you have to do it all over again. The process is easy-enough that it isn't a hassle, or much of one. If you put the Impuls IIA (or any other suppressor with a setup like this) on some other pistol, that combo might need a different setting. It probably will, so keep that in mind with the Impuls IIA or any other booster-equipped pistol that has this arrangement.

For disassembly in cleaning, you unscrew the booster assembly and extract the baffle stack out the rear of the tube. If you've done a bunch of shooting (all raise your hands who are guilty of such a thing), you may have to use a bit of ultrasonic cleaning time to loosen the crud enough to get the stack out. Once loosened, tap the rear of the tube against a soft wood board, and they will slide down enough to be grabbed and removed.

The one sent here came with a metric-threaded rear end cap. So, metric 13.5x1, left-handed. Sigh.

be envious. The box contains some Styrofoam-like spacers to fill the box, and the Impuls IIA is in a nylon pouch for storage and transport. It also means I will now have to reach out to B&T for a 1/2-28 threaded booster, since the number of firearms I have threaded M13.5-1LH is exactly two. Well, one extra barrel for a Beretta 92/M9 (no idea how that ended up here), and a SIG MPX, which doesn't need a booster.

If you order a B&T Impuls IIA (a wise choice, by the way) you'll be able to specify a good old American 1/2-28 booster for ours. But it will be marked as a B&T Impuls IIA, no HK markings on yours. Sorry about that, it was my lottery ticket after all. **TN**

| SPECIFICATIONS            |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B&T IMPULS IIA SUPPRESSOR |                                     |
| OAL:                      | 7.8 in.                             |
| Net Added Length:         | 7.3 in.                             |
| Diameter:                 | 1.4 in.                             |
| Material:                 | Aluminum, stainless steel           |
| Weight:                   | 12 oz.                              |
| Finish:                   | Black Cerakote                      |
| Calibers Available:       | 9mm                                 |
| Full-Auto Rated:          | N/A                                 |
| Mount System Available:   | Direct thread, 1/2-28 or M13.5x1-LH |
| MSRP:                     | \$900                               |
| Contact:                  | B-Tusa.com                          |



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# DIE BAYERISCHES-RÜCKLADUNGSGEWEHR M/69

## What's a Werder?

Photos by: James Walters (Unless Otherwise Indicated)

**W**hile Prussia extended control over the various German states, she allowed the second largest German state, Bavaria, a degree of political and military autonomy. So, while most German forces adopted Prussia's Preußische-Zündnadel-Gewehr M.41 (the Dreyse "needle rifle"), the Bavarians converted their rifled muskets into breech loaders, the Bayerisches-Infanterie-Gewehr M/1858/67, a bolt action breech loader that used a combustible paper cartridge ignited by a percussion cap fired by an outside hammer. But the M/1858/67 was a stopgap measure and they set about finding a rifle that fired the newly perfected metallic cartridges. In 1867, the Königlich Bayerischen Handfeuerwaffen-Versuchskommission (Royal Bavarian Small Arms Test Commission) evaluated several European and American rifles, including one submitted by a Bavarian engineer by the name of Johann Ludwig Werder.

Werder's rifle was a variation of the Peabody lever action dropping block de-

sign. He replaced the dropping block's finger lever with an internal leaf spring which was compressed as the breech was closed, and it had two "triggers." To open the breech, the front trigger was pushed which released a breech block prop, whereupon the leaf spring lowered the breech block, activating the ejector which pulled the spent case out of the chamber and threw it clear.

A round was inserted into the chamber and the breech closed by pulling back the external hammer spur which cocked the hammer, locked the breech block, and compressed the breech lowering spring.

It featured an enbloc action assembly in a box-like receiver and was held in place by dual, opposing screws and the front trigger guard screw. The action assembly consisted of only thirteen parts and the removal of three screws permitted it to be removed for cleaning and/or repairs.

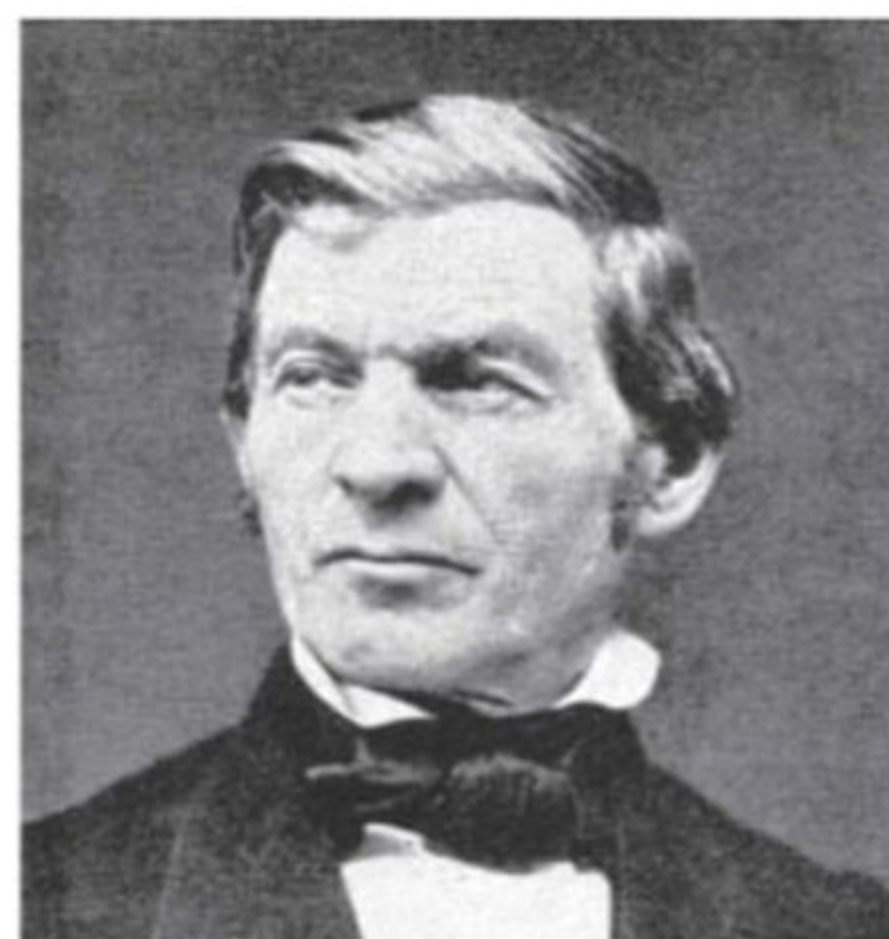
Werder's system provided a high rate of fire. So much so, that shortly after its introduction, the rifle was chris-



**A non-com and officer of the Bayerische Königliche Armee pose for the camera. The non-com is armed with a Werder rifle.**

tened the "Bayerisches Blitzgewehr" (Bavarian Lightning Rifle). On January 25, 1869, the Werder was adopted by the Royal Bavarian army as the Bayerisches-Rückladungsgewehr M/69 and production began at Amberg arsenal.<sup>1</sup>

The rear sight was graduated in Schritt ("pace"—or approximately



**Johann Ludwig Werder.**



**The Bayerisches-Infanterie-Gewehr M/1858/67 was a bolt action conversion that fired a combustible cartridge.**



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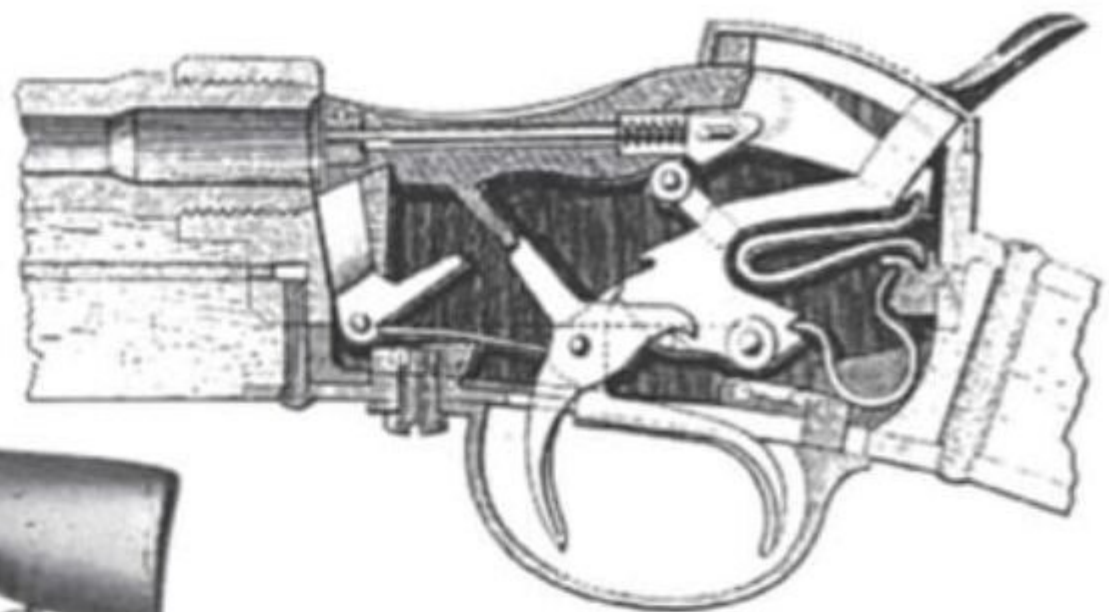


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**The Bayerisches-Rückladungsgewehr M/69 was a modification of the Peabody system. (James Walters photo)**



**A drawing of the internals of a Werder receiver.**

0.75 meter) and a bayonet mounted on a lug on the right side of the barrel.

The issue 11mm scharfe Patrone M/69 (lang) used a rimmed, bottle necked cartridge case 50mm in length with a 377-grain lead bullet that 67 grains of black powder propelled to 1,460 fps.<sup>2</sup>

When the Franco-Prussian war broke out in 1870, only four Jager battalions had been equipped with the new rifle. Reports from the field stated that the new rifle “...performed splendidly” but problems related to cartridge cases sticking in the chamber and bent barrels became evident.

The former was solved by redesigning and strengthening the cartridge case head. The latter was the result of the bayonet being mounted directly on the barrel. The solution involved lightening the bayonet. By October 1872, the entire Bavarian army had been rearmed with the M/69 rifle.

On July 1, 1869, the Bayerisches-Cavallerie-Carabiner M/69 was adopted for mounted troops. It was an attenu-

ated version of the rifle that was stocked to the muzzle, had a large saddle ring and a manual safety lever behind the hammer spur.

The 11mm scharfe Patrone M/69 (kurz) cartridge’s 35mm case contained a 340-grain lead bullet backed by 39 grains of black powder.

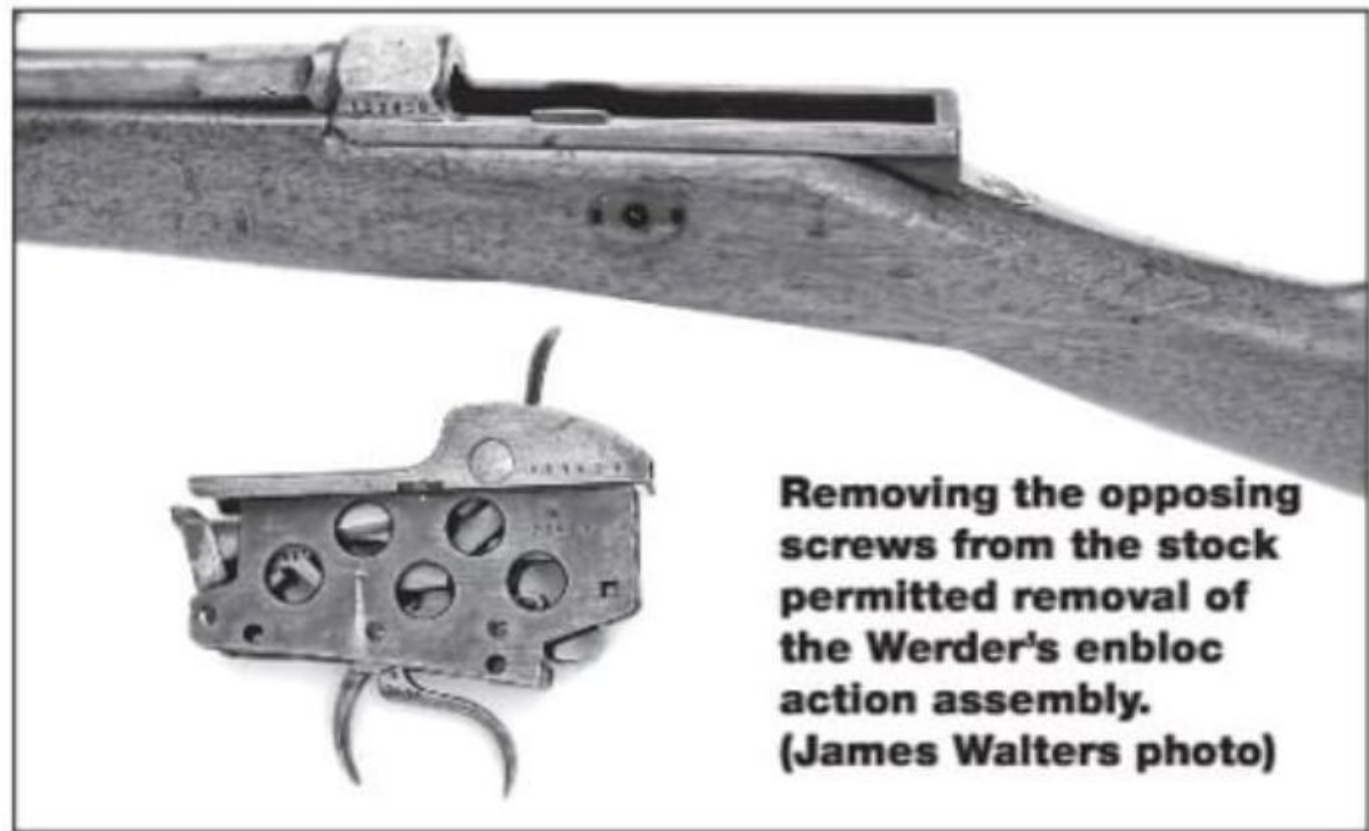
Carbines were made in Munich by Maschinenfabrik Landes, and Auguste Francotte & Cie of Liege, Belgium. The carbines proved inaccurate, suffered from heavy recoil, and muzzle blast and were unpopular. Auguste Francotte et Cie also manufactured 3,900 short rifles for the



**Close up of the Werder receiver. Visible here are the dual triggers and the large hammer spur projecting from the right, rear of the receiver. (James Walters photo)**



**Loading was easily accomplished by sliding a cartridge into the chamber. (James Walters photo)**



**Removing the opposing screws from the stock permitted removal of the Werder's enbloc action assembly. (James Walters photo)**

### SPECIFICATIONS

#### BAYERISCHES-RÜCKLADUNGSGEWEHR M/69

|                 |                                                                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Caliber:        | 11mm scharfe Patrone M/69 (lang)                                        |
| Overall Length: | 51.8 in.                                                                |
| Barrel Length:  | 35 in.                                                                  |
| Weight:         | 9.7 lbs.                                                                |
| Action:         | Single shot, dropping breech                                            |
| Sights:         | Front: inverted V blade<br>Rear: V-notch adj. from 300 to 1,200 schritt |
| Bayonet:        | 19-in. blade                                                            |



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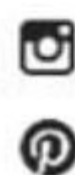
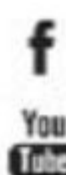


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A 19th century Bavarian Jäger poses with a Werder rifle.



Werder rifles and carbines were chambered for the (L to R) 11mm scharfe Patrone M/69 (lang), 11mm scharfe Patrone M/69 (kurz), and the 11mm scharfe Patrone M/71. (Photo courtesy of Lou Behling)



The Bayerisches-Cavallerie-Carabiner M/69 was adopted for mounted troops. (Rock Island Auction Co.)

| SPECIFICATIONS                        |                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BAYERISCHES-CAVALLERIE-CARABINER M/69 |                                                                       |
| Caliber:                              | 11mm scharfe Patrone M/69 (kurz)                                      |
| Overall Length:                       | 38 in.                                                                |
| Barrel Length:                        | 21.6 in.                                                              |
| Weight:                               | 7.7 lbs.                                                              |
| Action:                               | Single shot, dropping breech                                          |
| Sights:                               | Front: inverted V blade<br>Rear: V notch adj. from 300 to 500 schritt |
| Bayonet:                              | None                                                                  |



The Bayerisches-Gendarmerie-Gewehr M/69 was issued to Bavarian police forces and border guards. (Keith Doyon & Josh Underkofler photo)



The short lived, and much disliked, Werder Bayerisches-Cavallerie-Pistole M/69. (Rock Island Auction Co.)



The Gewehr M/69 Aptiertes was fitted with a Mauser-style Gew. M/71 rear sight. (James Walters photo)

of standardizing on the new Mauser Infanterie-Gewehr M/71. However, it was decided to re-chamber the Werder for the Mauser cartridge. The conversion was simple: the chamber was bored out to accept the longer Patrone M/71 and a M/71 type rear sight was installed.

As the Mauser cartridge produced higher pressures the converted rifles, known as the Bayerisches-Infanterie-Gewehr M/69 Aptiertes (“Adapted”), it experienced breech jamming, cracked stocks, and burst barrels and it was decided to adopt the Mauser, but this was not to be the end of Bavaria’s difficulties. For a while, the arsenal at Amberg was already producing Mauser rifles, these were under contract to Prussia which took precedence over Bavaria. As a stopgap measure, it was decided to modify the Werder for the Mauser cartridge by strengthening the receiver and ejector; installing a heavier barrel with a reinforced chamber area, and a different rifling pitch; fitting Mauser-style sights and bayonet. The modified rifle was approved as the Bayerisches-Infanterie-Gewehr M/69/76 n.M. (neues Modell—“new model”).



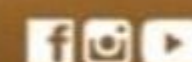
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**The Bayerisches-Infanterie-Gewehr M/69/76 n.M. used a stronger receiver and barrel. Note the M/71 Mauser style muzzle band. (Rock Island Auction Co.)**



**A WWI Bavarian reservist armed with a Werder rifle.**

## SPECIFICATIONS

### BAYERISCHES-INFANTERIE-GEWEHR M/69/76 N.M.

**Caliber:** 11mm scharfe Patrone M/71

**Overall Length:** 50.4 in

**Barrel Length:** 33.5 in.

**Weight:** 9.5 lbs.

**Action:** Single shot, dropping breech

**Sights:** Front: inverted V blade  
Rear: V-notch adj. from 400 to 1,600 schritt

**Bayonet:** 18.5-in. blade



**A 8x57JR Jagdstutzen built on a Werder receiver by Sempert & Krieghoff of Suhl. (Rock Island Auction Co.)**

The Bavarians placed a contract with the Österreichische-Waffenfabriks-Gesellschaft of Steyr, Austria. Additional rifles were eventually produced at Amberg, with some Steyr-made parts. By 1883, the Werder was declared obsolete and replaced with the M/71 Mauser although some were issued to reservists and rear echelon troops during the desperate days of WWI. NOTE: as was their usual practice, Austrian and German gunsmiths used surplus Werder receivers to build Jagdstutzen (hunting rifles).<sup>3</sup>

I obtained a Gewehr M/69 Aptiertes from my good friends Keith Doyon & Josh Underkofler.<sup>4</sup> It was produced at Amberg sometime between 1872 and modified for the 11mm M/71 cartridge in 1875. I obtained a small quantity of custom loaded 11x60R Mauser ammunition with reduced, smokeless powder charges for test firing.

At 75 yards, the slow moving 350-grain lead bullets hit high, requiring me to aim about a foot below the target. Once I had this figured this out, I managed

to produce a nicely centered four-hole, five-shot group measuring  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

When the breech block was lowered, the spent cartridge case went flying out over your right shoulder. No matter what else one could say about Herr Johann's rifle, there were apparently no complaints about extraction or ejection! 

1. Rückladungsgewehr = "spring activated rifle."
2. scharfe Patrone—"loaded cartridge"
3. [www.rockislandauction.com/detail/79/1335/sempert-krieghoff-werder-action-single-shot-stalking-rifle](http://www.rockislandauction.com/detail/79/1335/sempert-krieghoff-werder-action-single-shot-stalking-rifle)
4. [www.militaryrifles.com/bavaria/werder](http://www.militaryrifles.com/bavaria/werder)

I would like to thank the following for supplying materials used to prepare this report: Keith Doyon, Josh Underkofler, Horst Held, Drew Mowbray, Lou Behling, Peter Schlehner, Joel Kolander, Tasha Lopez, Rock Island Auction Co. and Morphy Auctions.



**I test fired Keith's Werder from a rest at 75 yards. (Becky Scarlata photo)**



**My best effort had five rounds in a four-hole group measuring  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches. (Becky Scarlata photo)**



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Rating of A+









# RUGER'S

# RXM

## PERFECTION, FINALLY! PISTOL

By Patrick Sweeney Cover and lead photo by Sean Utley

**E**rgonomics is a fascinating study. In the firearms world, the consensus among those who carry a compact 9mm for safety has settled on a pistol just about the size of a G19. While that pistol is a great combination of just enough and not too much, it comes with some, shall we say, quirks. Well, no more.

Ruger stepped up, and working with Magpul, they solved a lot of the problems that have come from decades of fiddling around with perfection. I'd have loved to have been in the room when the pitch was made; *"OK, let's make a personal carry pistol that has everything good that the 'G' does, but make everything on it better. As in; everything."* The new Ruger RXM is a G19-sized package without the difficulties the 19 brings with it, and a bunch of improvements.

Jumping to the heart of it, the main one, for me at least, is the trigger. The RXM, when I first shot one at an industry gathering (more on that) impressed me. The trigger on the sample pistol that arrived here, once I had had a chance to dry-fire it a bunch and shoot it more, was even better. The standard G spec on their trigger pull was for a long time "five pounds." I've got a shelf full of "G" pistols in my safe, and the only ones that are at or under five pounds are the

custom ones that have been rebuilt. The current G spec on trigger pull is 6.3 pounds. Some of mine aren't even that light. The Ruger RXM trips my scale at just over four and a half pounds. It is still a striker system, it isn't a custom 1911 trigger, but hot darn it is perhaps the best out of the box striker-system trigger I've shot in a long time.

Ok, now to the pistol as a whole. The slide is machined steel that has been through-hardened. That is, it is not just an extruded bar that has had a surface-hardening process done to it, and it is machined with an interesting rib on the bottom forward of the extractor, which tapers the top half of the



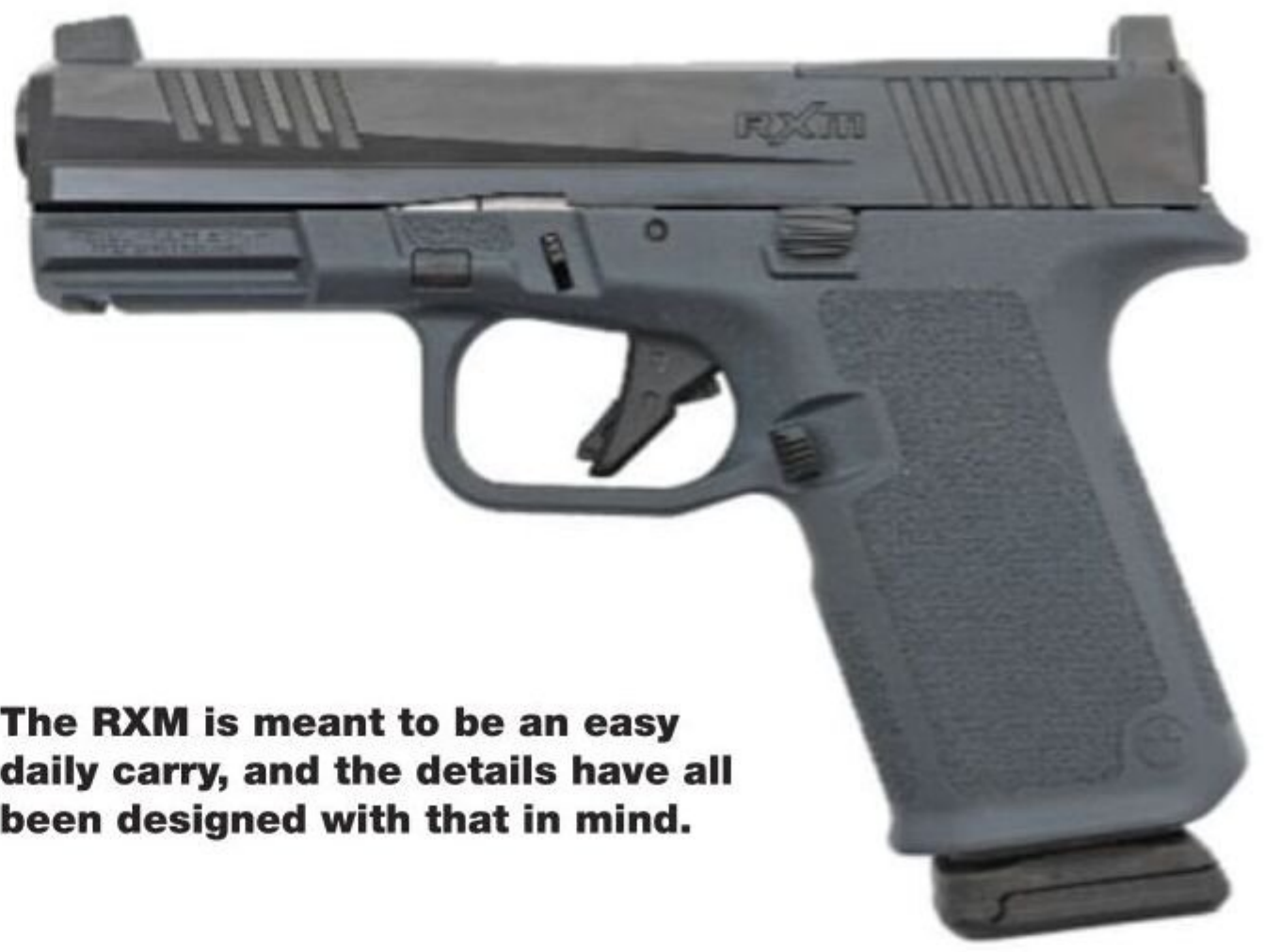
**The Ruger RXM was designed to be a daily carry, defensive-use pistol. Not a tactical tool for SpecOps. Not that it wouldn't serve them well, but Ruger is looking out for you; the EDC pistolero.**



## RUGER'S RXM PISTOL



**The location of the serial number plate is a giveaway: the Ruger RXM is a chassis pistol, so you can swap the frame when there are new ones.**



**The RXM is meant to be an easy daily carry, and the details have all been designed with that in mind.**



**The slide has a removable cover, ready for a selection of red dots without the need of an adapter plate.**



**The front of the frame has an accessory rail, because sometimes you need a place to mount a light.**



**The extractor is stout, as expected, and the various parts are meant to be interchangeable with a Gen 3 G19.**

slide towards the muzzle. That, combined with a hefty bevel on the nose of the slide, makes it a lot easier to re-holster without requiring three hands. There are cocking serrations fore and aft. Usually, I'm not a big fan of the forward ones, as they mostly act as a holster-grater enhancement, but with the taper of the RXM slide, these stay out of the way enough to not do that. At least, not in the testing I've done. The slide comes with tall-enough-to co-witness iron sights that are made of steel, not polymer, (the front is a tritium-celled blade) and there's a removable plate for optics mounting,



**(Sean Utley)**

**There are cocking serrations fore and aft.**

where the mounting location is machined for a direct-installation of RMR, Delta Point Pro and RMSc optics.

Inside, the barrel is an alloy steel, and it has been given a ferritic nitrocarburizing finish to match the same treatment of and surface finish of the slide. That is, it is highly corrosion resistant and harder than sin. As a bonus, and an improvement over the comparison pistol, it has enfield-pattern rifling. So, if you want to use lead, coated or plated bullets in your Ruger RXM, go for it. No worries about it aggressively leading up and causing problems. Oh, you can still lead the bore (some shooters can break anything) but this is a bore like other Ruger pistols, so put your mind at ease on this subject. The barrel hood has a viewing port at the rear, to be used as a loaded chamber indicator.

The trigger, as I mentioned, is really nice for a striker-fired pistol. Ruger obviously worked on the geometry of the various internal parts, and in addition they added a flat-faced trigger that breaks at ninety degrees. For those who want it, it has an audible and tactile trigger re-set. I long ago learned to shoot at speed by mashing the trigger like I'm squashing a bug and reset by letting my trigger finger fly off of the trigger, but don't be like me. Learn better habits. There are all the expected safety parts; the blade in the trigger bow itself, the striker block and the drop safety.





**You can see the flat-faced trigger, the extended mag release with lead-in groove, and the larger slide release. All good things to have.**



**The rear sight is a strong blade, without dots, lines or inserts. There are plenty of replacements to choose from if you need those extras.**



**The front sight has a tritium insert, a useful addition.**



**The frame/grip of the RXM is made with a generous mag well bevel right in the molding.**

**The Ruger RXM: everything you want in an EDC pistol, but improved, and nothing you don't.**



**(Sean Utley)**



The frame is a whole bundle of extras, as well. First of all, the frame is collaboration between Ruger and Magpul, called the Magpul Enhanced Handgun Grip. The EHG is made with a subtle swell at the bottom, to both act as a mag well funnel and to lock your hand in place. The front strap has been lifted, so your hand can get as high as possible behind the frame, and there are none of those wretched finger grooves. The trigger guard is curved up at the back to match. There is no replaceable backstrap, but I don't see that as a big

deal. Most of the pistols I test that have a backstrap option, I never test with anything but what it was wearing when the box arrived. I don't use them. If you find that you do have to swap backstraps, then maybe the RXM isn't the pistol for you. But try it anyway, you'll probably be surprised.

The frame has textured panels on all four sides, so you can count on a non-slip grip. These are the Magpul 3/4 scale TSP texture, and they provide a secure grip without grinding your clothes or causing them to snag and print that you are carrying. The magazine button has been raised or extended and the frame has a lead-in ramp to the button, while the slide stop lever is large enough that you can actually use it. The frame has an accessory rail out front, so you can add on a light or laser. There is just one locking slot, so you will want to make sure your light or laser will work with a single-slot rail.

However, and I've saved the best for last: the frame isn't the frame. It is just a shell that holds the magazine in place and contains the fire control insert (FCI). Yes, the RXM is a chassis pistol, and you can (once extra shells are available) swap it from one to the next in your collection. The FCI is made out of stainless steel and has the serial number on it, so swapping shells doesn't mean you are swapping serial numbers. The first frame/grip is made in Stealth Gray, but Ruger and Magpul plan on rolling out additional colors and sizes in the future. Granted, a bigger



**The RXM comes with the expected extras, and two fifteen-round magazines from Magpul. With a holster and mag pouch, you're ready to start daily carry.**







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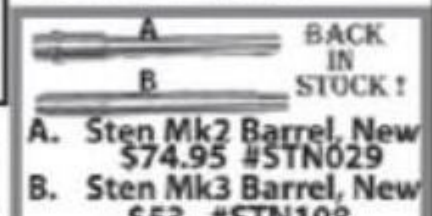


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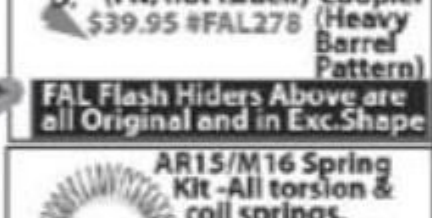
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Copied from a RubberTree Plantation security force shirt in the former French Indochina. Shirts are very tough and have leather shoulder pads. 2 breast pockets and a left side diagonal pocket large enough to hold a medium to large sized pistol. Also 2 hip slash pockets. There are 4 sizes - generous 'western' sizes Med., Lg., XL, 2XL. This shirt softens and fades nicely with age and can stand up to the toughest assignments!  
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\$34.95 #MISC898-Green (Tan Camo also available)



RUGER'S **RXM** PISTOL



The RXM disassembles just like the G19 and will be easy to keep clean.

frame will require longer magazines, 17 versus the 15 rounds of the ones provided. Speaking of magazines, the RXM comes with a pair of them; Magpul PMAG 15 GL9 magazines, fifteen rounds each, so you're set there.

The internals of the RXM are made to fit with Gen 3 parts, so if you want to upgrade your RXM (hmmm, what could you improve on, I have to ask) then you need to know that. Parts for the later Gens won't necessarily work, you'll have to specify Gen 3 to the aftermarket provider. You may also have to do some fitting since Ruger makes Ruger pistols, and the accessory parts might need a bit of adjustment. Don't blame Ruger, the RXM isn't at fault if that happens. The RXM also will fit holsters made for the G19, but there's



The frame swell at the bottom fits my hand well, and it will provide a secure grip for a lot of shooters.

another detail; the RXM trigger guard is rounded, not squared. Another thing to remember when getting holsters.

The RXM comes in a lockable plastic case, with Ruger and Magpul logos on it, the two magazines, owner's manual, lock, you get the idea. So, the first thing I did was to pull it out of the case, take the RXM rubber band off of the frame, check to make sure it was unloaded, and dry fire it. I wanted to see if the one they sent me had as nice a trigger as the one I shot at the industry day at the range where they showed the RXM to us writers and editors. The shooting session there



With all the ammo tested, the RXM turned in exemplary groups for a daily-carry pistol. For any pistol, really.



The RXM barrel uses traditionally shaped rifling, so you don't have to worry about using lead or coated bullets.



It is hard to argue with accuracy like this.

| RUGER RXM PISTOL CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA |                     |                |    |      |                              |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----|------|------------------------------|
| Ammunition                                     | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | Es | sD   | Accuracy (in.) (Avg. & Best) |
| Black Hills Honey Badger                       | 100                 | 1,254          | 43 | 16.7 | 1.7 / 1.5                    |
| Fiocchi FMJ                                    | 115                 | 1,053          | 52 | 25.2 | 1.9 / 1.7                    |
| SIG FMJ                                        | 115                 | 1,190          | 38 | 13.9 | 1.8 / 1.6                    |
| Michigan Ammo FMJ                              | 147                 | 911            | 40 | 14.3 | 1.9 / 1.7                    |

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labrador chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.





10

Love  
at first  
group.



RUGER'S **RXM** PISTOL



was at a range in Grand Junction, Colorado where there were steel plates up the mountain, as far as 600+ yards. (At least that was the furthest one I spotted, anyway.) I started at 100 yards, hammering the one-foot plate with most shots, and then went in search of opportunities at greater distances. The nice trigger helped, and the accuracy of the RXM barrel delivered, and I was able to severely harass the 200-yard plate, and greatly worry the 300-yard plate. In all, a great deal of fun, and then I had to move on.

Here at home, I spent time trying various loads in the RXM, never having a single failure of any kind (no surprise there) and simply pounding the falling plate rack into submission. I was particularly interested in how well it would shoot off the bench, since I do that with every handgun, and I can see how it stacks up. It stacks up very nicely.

As far as holsters go, the RXM will fit your basic G19 holster, with one change: the trigger guard is curved, not retro-80s square—keep that in mind when you are shopping. I rang up C&G holsters, and when I told them I needed a holster, but couldn't tell them the brand (the RXM was still a secret when I was testing it), we then had a Q&A on features. What we settled on was the OWB Covert with a curved trigger guard, and a spare mag holder.

| SPECIFICATIONS RUGER RXM |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Type:                    | Striker-fired semi-automatic      |
| Caliber:                 | 9mm                               |
| Capacity:                | 15+1 rounds                       |
| Barrel:                  | 4 in.                             |
| Overall Length:          | 7.2 in.                           |
| Weight:                  | 23 oz.                            |
| Finish:                  | FNC alloy steel, polymer          |
| Grips:                   | n/a polymer frame holding chassis |
| Sights:                  | Fixed front & rear, optics ready  |
| Trigger:                 | 4 lbs. 7 oz.                      |
| MSRP:                    | \$499                             |
| Contact:                 | Ruger.com, (336) 949-5200         |



The C&G holster is molded to the pistol, and there's a tension-adjustment screw if you need it.



The holster belt loops are solid, but you can move them up or down by using the screw-holes for spacing.



The magazine pouch is a slip-on, with hooks on the bottom to latch onto your belt.

The RXM clicks into place with as much retention as you desire, by adjusting the tension screw. The mag pouch also has a tension screw, and unlike the fixed belt loops (steel, by the way) of the holster, the mag pouch has a slip-on paddle back and hooks on the bottom to keep it in place. So, pistol and spare magazine (what comes in the box) are all ready for daily carry.

Now for the RXM price. The list price is, as we all know, just the starting point. I suspect the RXM will be as fast selling an item as lemonade in Death Valley so you might not see any discounts for a while. Even then, the price will be really good. Once demand catches up, the price will no-doubt come down and be a screaming deal. How screaming? I'm talking with Ruger about not sending this one back and sending them a check instead. (Something about marketing and internal paperwork, hey I'm just a gun writer, not an MBA.) That's how good the price is.

So, the RXM, Perfect? You decide. 

| SOURCES                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Michigan Ammo, MichiganAmmo.com, (313) 383-4430         |
| Black Hills Ammunition, Black-Hills.com, (605) 348-5150 |
| SIG SAUER, SigSauer.com, (603) 610-3000                 |
| Fiocchi Ammunition, FiocchiUSA.com, (417) 725-4118      |



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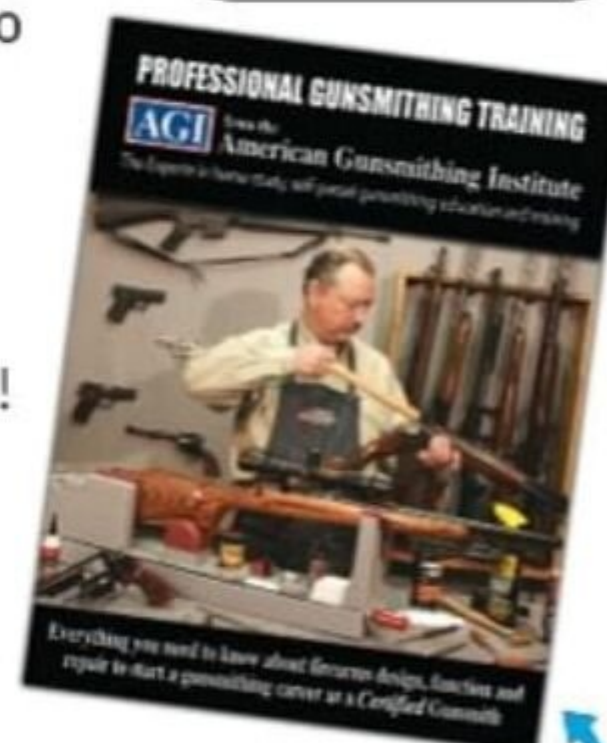
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# WILSON COMBAT

By Patrick Sweeney

# EDC X9 2.0 PISTOL

## ONLY THE BEST!

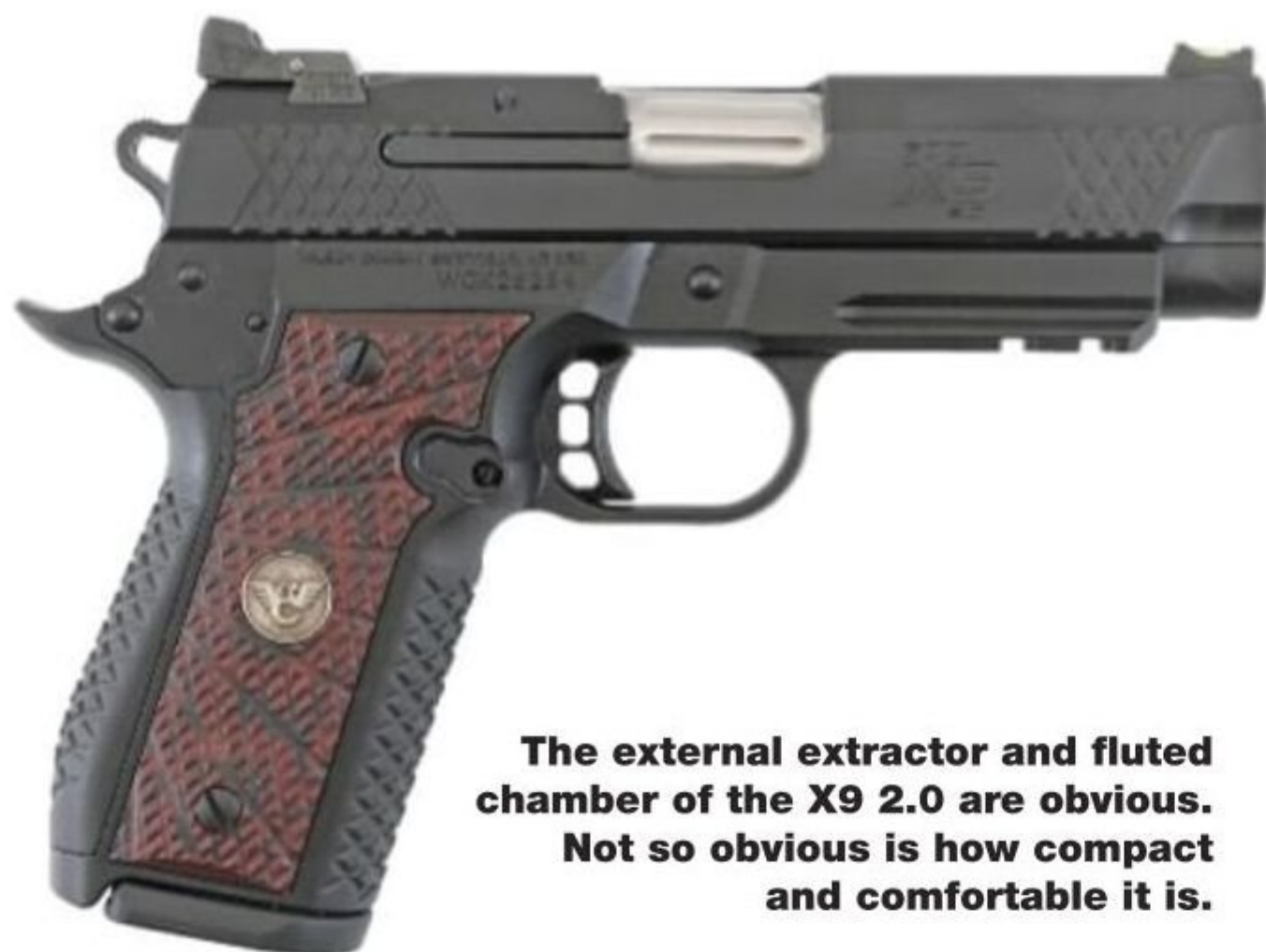
**T**here are times when I wonder what is in the water in the corner of Texas abutting Arkansas. Bill Wilson just keeps coming up with superb rifles, pistols, and shotguns, and one of these days my credit card is simply going to burst into flames. The latest? The EDC X9 2.0, where Wilson combat makes the EDC X9 even better.

The “Two-point-Oh” is the latest improvement on the already excellent EDC X9 that saw the light of day back in 2016, but just “good enough” isn’t, for Bill. Okay, the base pistol, before we give you the design and engineering changes for the 2.0. The EDC X9 is a double-stack magazine 1911, which is like saying a BMW M4 is a quick car with two doors. The X9 starts with a T6-7075 alloy aluminum frame and a steel slide that are machined in-house at WC, then mated and precisely fitted. Inside goes an integrally

ramped barrel in 9mm complete with fluted chamber and cone lockup. Now, the slide is not just fitted to the frame, but the edges of it have been beveled so there are no sharp edges to cut your hands, gear, or clothing. The slide has front and rear cocking serrations in the WC X-TAC pattern, which leave small diamonds in the center to really provide a solid grip. The ejection port is, of course, generously sized so there is no chance an empty (or an ejected live round) will fail to clear the opening on its exit.

I must point out here that the internals and the small parts, are made by Wilson Combat. When he was starting out as an IPSC competitor, Bill had a chance to build pistols with all the parts that could be found back then. Seeing which ones failed, and how, lead him to design and make his own Bullet Proof® parts, and that’s what he





**The external extractor and fluted chamber of the X9 2.0 are obvious. Not so obvious is how compact and comfortable it is.**



**The Wilson Combat EDC X9 2.0 is an improvement over the excellent earlier version. If you don't have the first one, you need the second one.**



**Here you can see the external extractor, and the X-TAC cocking serrations on the slide.**



**The model number is clearly marked, as is the generation, of the X9.**



**30 lpi serrations on the top of the tri-top slide, leading to the fiber optic front sight.**

builds his pistols with. When I'm building up a pistol, if I see the parts coming out of a bag with the blue (well, blue in the old days) labeling, I have no worries.

The slide gets an external extractor, not because external is better than internal, but it is a lot easier to produce, and the resulting extractor works pretty much forever. "Never needs tuning" is a big plus in my book, and clearly Bill thought so too. The slide gets a tri-top profile, with the top flat serrated to reduce glare for those who are still using iron sights as the primary aiming method. The X9 has taller-than-usual sights not to clear a suppressor, but to still co-witness with a red-dot optic on board. Red dots are the newest, and in a lot of situations, best thing, and the EDC X9 and X9 2.0 are given sights to clear the dot, and a slide machined to accept a dot.

The barrel is machined with a cone lockup, so no bushing in the slide, and it is extensively fluted, both to reduce weight and to look good. The feed ramp is integral to the barrel, so no two-step shuffle in feeding, as in the classic 1911. Not that the original is bad, when set up properly, but an integral ramp also offers greater case support, and if you are using a 9mm as an every-day carry pistol, you are likely considering +P ammunition. The extra case support is a good thing to have, then. The muzzle of the barrel is flush with the front face of the slide, and given a deep counter-bore, a reverse crown, to protect it from daily wear and accidental bumps.

Being a Wilson Combat custom pistol, you get choices. One of those choices is to have a light rail or not on your aluminum frame. The rail is an integral part of the frame, machined out of the aluminum when the rest of the frame is also machined. It is not a bolt-on, that wouldn't be right. So, you have to pick one. Some of your other choices are the length of barrel and slide you desire. Your options



**The rear of the slide is serrated at 40 lpi, along with the adjustable sight, to cut down on glare.**



## WILSON COMBAT EDC X9 2.0 PISTOL



**The front strap is machined with the Wilson Combat X-TAC pattern, and it works like a charm.**



**The Wilson Combat grips are held on with screws on the 2.0, so you can easily take them off for cleaning or to swap to a set of another color.**



**The one-piece backstrap also gets the X-TAC treatment, and together with the frontstrap it keeps the X9 solidly in your hand.**



◀ **The deeply crowned (with a coned crown) barrel has no bushing, and it locks up like a bank vault.**

▶ **The barrel is fluted, not just the chamber, and here you can see the fiber optic front sight blade.**



range from the full-sized five-inch, the mid-sized four-inch, and the sub-compact 3.25-inch. The choices don't stop there. You can select from the array of Armor-Tuff colors; you get to select the color of your grips, you can have, or not, an ambidextrous thumb safety, and the color fiber optic tube in the sights, the length of the trigger, and if you want the optional magazine well funnel. The option of choices does not extend to a non-slip grip. The Wilson Combat X-TAC pattern that you see on the slide is also on the frontstrap, and there it practically welds your hand to the frame.

The funnel brings me to another option. If you stick with the standard frame base mag opening, then your 15-round magazines will fit just fine. If you want to use the higher-capacity 18-round magazines, they will protrude some. If you opt for the extra mag funnel, your 15-round magazines will disappear up into the funnel, and your reloads might not be

as fast as you'd like. This is one of those embarrassment-of-riches conundrums: do you accept the extra bulk of the mag funnel (not much, but it is some) to gain the extra capacity. Or, do you forego it and risk that your reloads might not be lightning-quick? This is not a question I can answer for you, you'll have to do that for yourself.

As an evolution of the 1911, the EDC X9 2.0 of course has an excellent trigger. It is a 1911 after all, and coming out of the Wilson Combat shop you'd expect nothing but a nice trigger. Clean, crisp, with minimal overtravel and (for those who care) an audible reset, Wilson combat specs the trigger pull as being between 3.5 and 4.5 pounds in weight, and this one? Three pounds, five ounces, so just a smidge under the spec weight range, which is fine by me.

The EDC X9 series use magazines that Bill Wilson did not design, but maga-

zines he researched. Rather than try to come up with new magazines from scratch, he looked into what magazine tubes would best-suit the pistol he had in mind, what became the EDC X9. He then had that manufacturer modify the original design to the length he needed for the



**The X9 2.0 uses the same excellent magazines as the X9 1.0, which hold either 15 rounds or 18 rounds in the extended version.**





The X9 2.0 comes with all the goodies; a zippered case, spare magazine, tools, manual, lock, and the build sheet as well as test-fire target.



You know who worked on your X9 2.0, and you know what it shot like when it left the factory: three rounds into less than an inch at 25 yards. That is a level of accuracy to aspire to, for sure.

X9, and “*viola*,” we have fifteen-round base magazines and 18-round extended ones. I’d like to be able to tell you I can tell just by looking who makes them, but I can’t. What I can tell you is this: they are as good as any hi-cap mags out there, and better than most. I have my suspicions, but I’ll just say this: they have been 100% reliable, and they pass the Size-14 boot test.



So, all that is good, really good, but what did Bill and the crew do to make the X9 better? Simple, he changed the multi-piece frame design to a solid frame one. The earlier design used the frame assembly to keep the grips on, and it did away with the grip screws, something that has been on the 1911 pistol since day one. Clever, but not something really needed. So, the crew schemed and tested, and came up with the 2.0, which uses a different frame design (but only in the grip area) and the grips are now held on with screws. There’s a bit advantage here in that the frame is now slightly smaller. Not that the 1.0 was exactly portly, but the 2.0 now feels almost like a single-stack 1911 with

◀ If you’ve taken any 1911 apart then you know how to take apart the X9 2.0. This is as far as you’ll need to go most of the time, unless you need to take the grips off.

► The X9 barrel has an integral ramp.





WILSON COMBAT EDC X9 2.0 PISTOL



Accurate? Really, you have to ask?



Wilson Combat makes their own ammo, and it shoots like this. When I win the lottery, I'll buy a warehouse full of this load.



Honey Badger don't care, and the X9 likes the Honey Badger.



For a soft-shooting defensive load, the Hornady Critical Defense fills the ticket and punches small groups.



Even vanilla-plain FMJ, at a brisk velocity shoots small groups out of the X9 2.0.

| WILSON COMBAT EDC X9 2.0 PISTOL CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA |                     |                |    |      |                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----|------|------------------------------|
| Ammunition                                                    | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | Es | sD   | Accuracy (in.) (Avg. & Best) |
| Black Hills Honey Badger                                      | 100                 | 1,179          | 29 | 12.5 | 1.4 / 1.3                    |
| Hornady Critical Defense                                      | 115                 | 1,095          | 17 | 6.3  | 1.3 / 1.1                    |
| Wilson Combat TAC-XP+P                                        | 115                 | 1,051          | 41 | 16.8 | 1.4 / 1.3                    |
| Lehigh JHP Monolithic+P                                       | 115                 | 1,018          | 24 | 11.1 | 1.5 / 1.3                    |
| SIG FMJ-RN                                                    | 124                 | 1,111          | 31 | 14.7 | 1.6 / 1.4                    |
| Wilson Combat XTP                                             | 147                 | 947            | 41 | 15.3 | 1.3 / 1.1                    |

Accuracy results were to be averages of four, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.



Two empties in the air, and the EDC X9 2.0 is right back on target already.

fat grips on it. You can swap grips if you want, or even experiment on the existing ones, and replace them with new ones if your experiments get out of hand. By using grip screws, Wilson makes swapping grips a whole lot easier. On the 1.0 you had to disassemble the frame (at least partly) to swap grips. Now, just a properly fitting screwdriver gets the job done.

And speaking of getting the job done, the EDC X9 2.0 does. I did the usual testing, first doing chrono work, then accuracy, and then just having fun whacking down plates racks and practicing on bowling pin arrays. Say, did you know that Wilson combat also offers a wide array of



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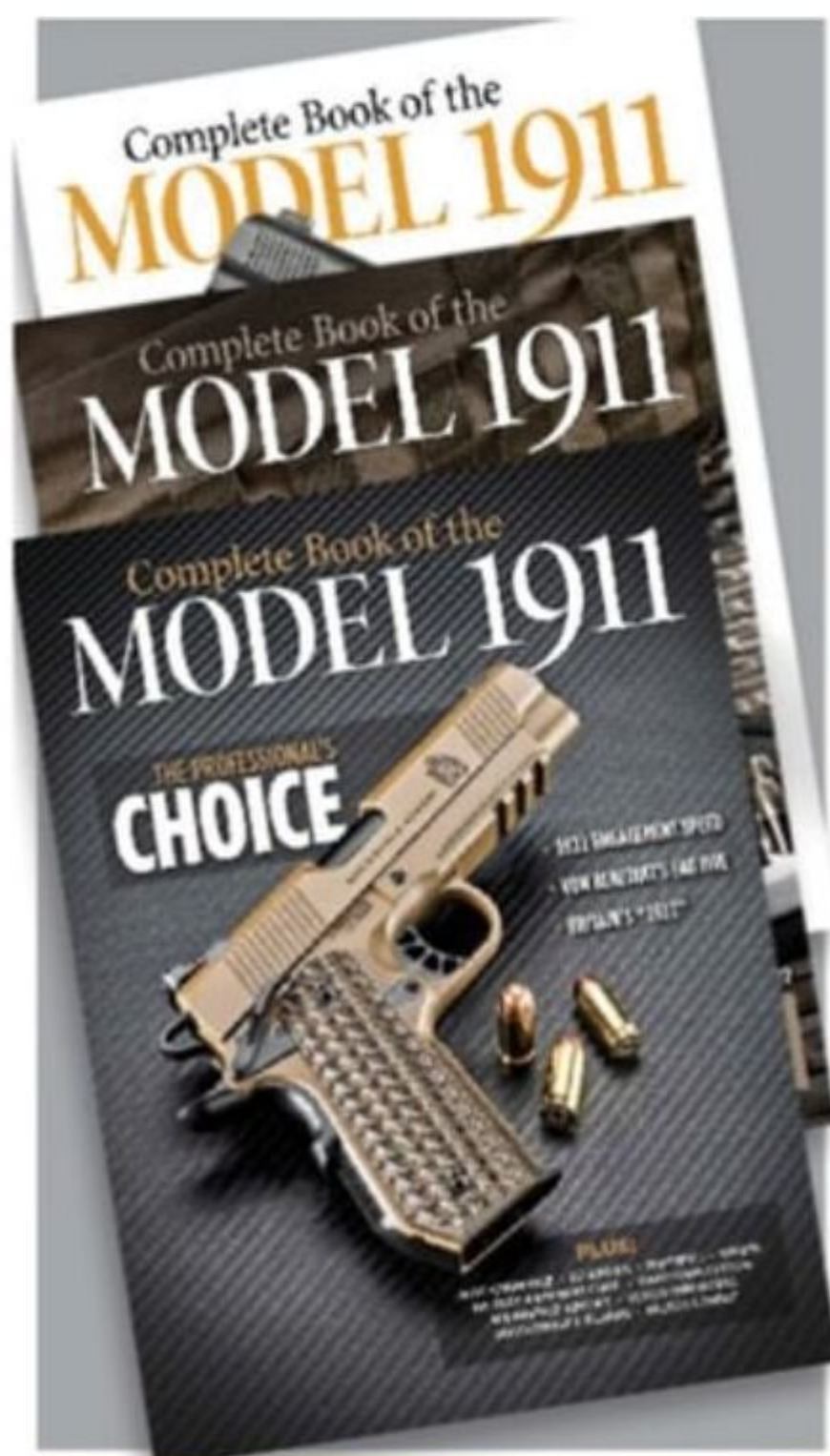
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# WILSON COMBAT HOLSTERS

**A**long with excellent firearms, and ammunition to feed them, Wilson Combat offers holsters for their pistols. What arrived with the EDC X9 2.0 was a right-handed pancake holster made by Jason Winnie Leathergoods out of steer hide. This is a friction-fit open-top holster meant for OWB concealed carry. The belt loops (this one came for a 1.5-inch belt) are protected by external flaps that both hide the belt loops but help tuck it in



**The holster for the EDC X9 2.0 is versatile enough to accept any commander-sized 1911-based pistol. So, if you want a break from your 2.0, you don't have to swap leather.**



**The belt slots are covered by the exterior layer of steerhide, and this makes for a sleeker fit, and one more snug to your body as well.**

to your side. The inside half of the holster has a safety lever tab that keeps the safety (and the slide and sight) from rubbing on your shirt and getting tangled up in your wardrobe. The safety lever tab has a sharp crease in it, a location slot for the safety tab. I suspect this is a dual-purpose feature: it provides a bit more friction retention, but it mainly keeps the safety lever from being inadvertently rubbed off. The outside layer is molded to the pistol, and it looks like it would work with any 1911 or 1911-like pistol with a four-inch barrel. And it works with rail or no-rail configuration. If you want a holster that holds a pistol with the light attached, you'll have to opt for a different one than this one. First-class, for \$162. **FN**

9mm ammunition? Yes, they do, and it is all good. I took this opportunity to see how the X9 2.0 would stack up to the accuracy spec Wilson Combat lists, of one inch at 25 yards. Okay, an admission: I can't shoot one-inch groups at 25 yards. I can really wring out the accuracy of a handgun, but I can't reliably and on demand drill one-inch groups, even if the pistol can. I can come close some days, and this day I did, but this pistol can do better. I suspect this one can all the time (as well as all the rest of the 2.0s) because it really tried to. And more to the point, it did not shoot anything even as poorly as average, let alone badly.

The base four-inch pistol, as it sits ready to be shipped from Wilson Combat, lists for \$3,210. You can get it in three barrel/slide lengths, with or without a host of features including a light rail or not for that or a bit more. Even accounting for inflation, that's a bunch of money. And yet, it isn't. Running the inflation calculator backwards, the EDC X9 2.0 in 2024 dollars, is equal to \$990 spent in 1982. I have to tell you that if anyone had been offering a pistol of this quality for just under a grand back then, IPSC competitors would have fallen all over themselves to buy it. Heck, I spent a lot more than that before I was done, and it was for my first single-stack .45, one that wasn't as well-built as this one is. No, the EDC X9 2.0 is a lifetime tool, an investment that your heirs will argue over (make it clear in your will who gets it) and will run with absolute reliability until you don't need it anymore. In other words: the best. **FN**

| SPECIFICATIONS                  |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| WILSON COMBAT EDC X9 2.0 PISTOL |                                    |
| Type:                           | Hammer-fired semi-automatic        |
| Caliber:                        | 9mm                                |
| Capacity:                       | 15 rounds                          |
| Barrel:                         | 4 in.                              |
| Overall Length:                 | 7.4 in.                            |
| Weight:                         | 30 oz.                             |
| Finish:                         | Armor-tuff (your choice of colors) |
| Grips:                          | Wilson Combat Starburst G10        |
| Sights:                         | Adjustable rear, fiber optic front |
| Trigger:                        | 3 lbs. 5 oz.                       |
| MSRP:                           | \$3,210 (4 in. model, others vary) |
| Contact:                        | WilsonCombat.com, (800) 955-4856   |

| SOURCES                 |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Black Hills Ammunition, | Black-Hills.com, (605) 348-5150 |
| Hornady Ammunition,     | Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220     |
| SIG SAUER,              | SigSauer.com, (603) 610-3000    |



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Available on the global professional (and some civilian) markets since 2014, the STF/12 remains the flagship of the FABARM company of Italy—and for all the best reasons.

# FABARM STF/12 SHOTGUN: TACTICAL MODULARITY

Available on the European Civilian Markets and to MIL/LE/Govt. Customers Since 2014, the FABARM STF/12 Pump-Action Shotgun is the Heir Apparent of the Italian Tradition of Tactical Shotguns that Ruled the Global Trade Ever Since the 1980s. **By Pierangelo Tendas**

**T**urkey has been steadily taking over the market for tactical shotguns, but there's a long-standing player that can still give them a run for their money: Italy. In a world where the "Turkinellis" are taking over, the European shotguns powerhouse refuses to give up.

And it's not just the big names—Beretta, Benelli, Franchi—who are stalwartly holding their position: there is another player in the field of tactical shotguns that hauls all the way from Italy, maybe less known, but not less important. We're talking about FABARM.

Best known in the US for their extensive line of over-and-under and semi-automatic hunting and competition shotguns, and for their FP6 model distributed in America by Heckler & Koch for a few years starting in 1998, FABARM has been offering a dedicated modular pump-action shotgun design dubbed the STF/12 on the global civilian and professional markets ever since 2014, with a sort of

production prototype, a "transitional" variant, if you will. This model, distributed for a few months in 2013 in some markets and sold to professional customers by a Swiss company, is known as the "SENSIED SF-K1."

Ten years later, the STF/12 is still FABARM's tip of the spear—a flawlessly crafted, perfectly manufactured design that has been silently becoming a standard among elite military and law enforcement units, with the company vaunting excellent sales on the MIL/LE/Govt. markets. Additionally, the STF/12 is available for civilian sales. All of this, that is, in Europe.

When it comes to the US market, to this date the STF/12 is available only in one single configuration, all others being restricted under the provisions of the 1934 National Firearms Act. And that's too bad, because the STF/12 is something that could appeal to every American shooter: a masterfully crafted, solidly built, completely adaptable pump-action





**The FABARM STF/12 is a modular weapon system, available in a wide array of swappable variants.**



**The receiver is the common component of the STF/12, to which all other parts can be installed for total personalization.**

shotgun that's smooth as silk to operate and incredibly versatile; in the author's own opinion—albeit maybe admittedly tainted by a hint of Italian patriotism—possibly the best pump shottie currently manufactured in Europe and a serious contender for a global leadership position.

### Just the Facts

The FABARM STF/12, in all its variants, is based on the same core assembly: a 7071-T6 alloy receiver hosting a stainless steel breechblock; both are precision CNC-machined, and the breechblock features a top tilting block that dubs as a locking member. The breechblock, in particular, is of extremely clever design: upon fieldstrip, by depressing the firing pin and tapping the bottom side with a hand, the user may release the retaining pin to separate the firing pin, its spring, and the locking member from the carrier group, allowing easy in-depth cleaning.

The bolt rests at the end of the double action bar, which is precision-machined out of hard-anodized 7075-T6 alloy with just the right level of tolerances to make the action run smoothly... and boy, it does its job. The STF/12 pumps like its action bar is on wheels, the feeling is akin of that of racking the slide of a custom 1911 variant rather than a rugged combat shotgun. A far cry from the course, rough feeling of a budget "Turkinelli." Handling the STF/12 inspires confidence.

The magazine tube is solidly connected to the receiver, and its capacity varies depending on the barrel configu-

ration: from a minimum basic capacity of five 12-gauge, three-inch shells, the magazine can be extended to hold up to seven shotshells, plus one in chamber of course.

Barrels for the STF/12 are all medium-profile, available in five lengths; 11, 14, 18, 20, and 22 inches, and are all manufactured by deep-boring out of chrome-moly-vanadium steel bar stock. Deep-boring protects the steel from the stress unavoidably caused by cold-hammer forging, allowing the semi-finished barrels to remain perfectly straight as they undergo the following phases of manufacturing, such as the silver-soldering of some components of the barrel itself at temperatures that exceed 700°C (1,292°F).

The final result is that still today, ten years after its original introduction, the FABARM STF/12 still is, single-handedly, the world's most accurate, mass-produced pump-action shotgun. All STF/12 barrels are tested in-house by FABARM at a 50 meters distance with premium slugs, and considered acceptable if the resulting three-shots group remains under five centimeters (1.96") at that range.

Additionally, FABARM's STF/12 barrels are proof tested in-house at a pressure level of 1,630 Bar (23,641.15 psi). FABARM has been the first shotgun manufacturer in the world to adopt a standard proof-testing for all their barrels at that pressure levels, starting in 1999, foreseeing the future preponderance of steel shot—much more taxing to barrels than standard ammunition. This was due to more and more jurisdictions imposing restrictions on lead-based shotshells for hunting over "environmental" concerns.

Today, all FABARM barrels are individually proof tested both at the factory and by the Italian National



**A photo of the SF-K1 pump-action shotgun (from the official company literature) marketed by the Swiss-based SENSIED Consulting S.à.r.l. company in 2013, the SF-K1 was manufactured by FABARM and can be seen as a transitional model between the "Martial" and SDASS series and the final STF/12 design.**





▲ Top to bottom, the four basic variants of the STF/12 platform: Short, Compact, Telescopic, and Pistol Grip.



▲ All the variants of the STF/12 shotgun are also available in the "Initial" configuration, lacking some accessories from factory to contain/reduce costs.



The STF/12 is available in black, FDE, and OD green with True Timber Western Viper camo furniture.

Proofing House in Gardone Val Trompia at a 1,630 Bar pressure level (for context, the maximum CIP testing pressure is 1,320 Bar, or 19,144.98 psi). Barrels and breech-blocks are also individually tested; all samples come issued with a proofing certificate and feature a prominent Fleur-de-lys proof mark as a testament to their strength.

FABARM also subjected the STF/12 design to a very detailed obstructed bore test carried on at the company facilities with a full-power shell fired through a sample that had a Brenneke slug stuck inside the barrel 160 mm (16.2") from the cartridge rim. The test resulted in a barely bulged barrel at the point of the original obstruction, with no catastrophic failure resulting barely in a bulged barrel, but no catastrophic failure, meaning the shooter would suffer no consequence should such an incident take place in real life.

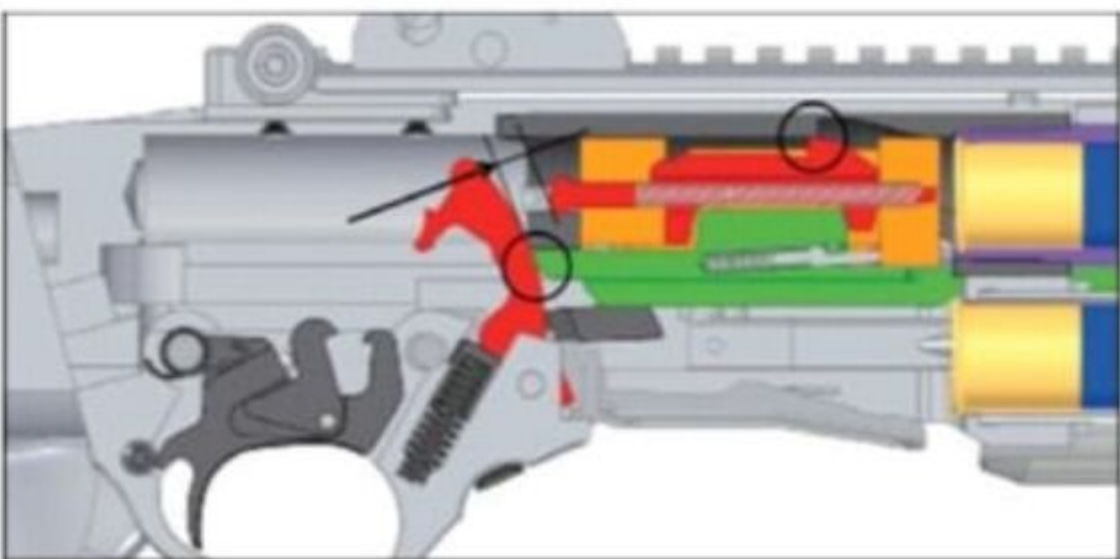
Further adding to the STF/12 barrels' quality is FABARM's patented Tribore HP design. A proprietary technology, introduced in 2005, to overcome the inherent issues of over bored shotgun barrels, regardless of the kind of ammunition used, with a practical application of the Venturi effect: FABARM's Tribore HP barrels feature a 205 mm (8") conic segment that slowly reduces the bore from 18,7 mm (0.73") to 18,4 mm (0.72"), increasing shot velocity and penetration while at the same time allowing the use of either the factory-issued HP Accuracy choke or FABARM's famous hyperbolic chokes. In the specific case of the STF/12 barrels, a specially developed breacher-type muzzle device, entirely manufactured out of steel, is also available.

What we have here is essentially a handful of features, initially conceived for high-end trap or



◀ A factory CAD demonstrating the obstructed bore test that the STF/12 passed with no damage to the handguard.

▶ Another factory CAD demonstrating the safety system that prevents out-of-battery ignition.







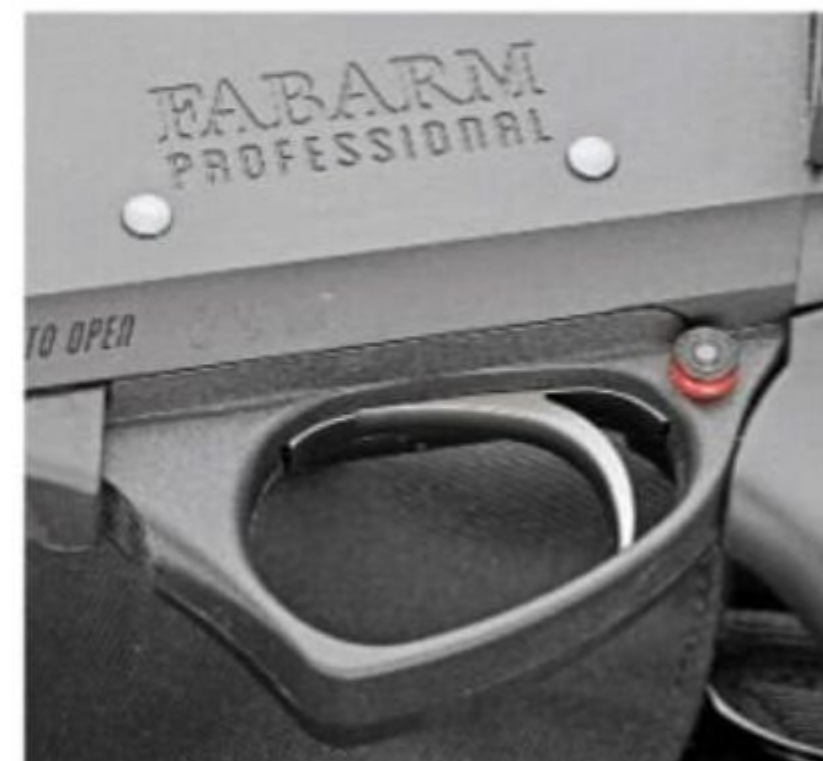
► The notch at the top front of the aluminum barrel shroud on the STF/12 integrates a low-profile front sight and dubs as the front pivot point for the top Picatinny rail.

The FABARM STF/12 comes with LPA Ghost Ring sights with fiber-optic inserts installed on a pivoting top Picatinny rail.

The installation and removal of the Picatinny rail is easy and only requires a few seconds.



► The STF/12 pump-action shotgun comes from factory with FABARM's own Racing trigger; the cross-bolt manual safety is located behind the trigger guard, and the disconnect lever is placed on the left side of the receiver.



skeet competition shotguns, applied to a pump-action shotgun for tactical applications. Same goes for the trigger: all STF/12 shotguns come issued from factory with FABARM's own Racing trigger, originally conceived for sporting shotguns, offering a very short travel and an average weight of 1.6 kg (3.5 lbs.)/ It can be adjusted further by the shooter manually with a built-in safety system that prevents out-of-battery discharge if the trigger is pulled with the bolt not completely closed—e.g. with the locking lug not engaging its machined recess in the receiver—the rear portion of the action bar intercepts the hammer, preventing it from hitting the firing pin. And we're still barely scratching the surface.

### Configure at Will

All FABARM STF/12 shotguns come issued from factory with a polymer pistol grip and railed forend, both with a Soft Touch finish. "Soft Touch" is the name given to a surface finish applied to polymer or wooden furniture in modern competition, hunting or tactical shotguns to improve gripping and feel; a layer of synthetic material is applied to the component, and as it dries, the feeling is similar to that of a rubberized part when it comes to slip-proof performance in all conditions, albeit somewhat velvety at the touch. Additionally, moving components with a Soft Touch finish (e.g. the sliding forend of a pump-action shotgun) are substantially more silent than their counterparts.

Another common feature of all the FABARM STF/12 shotguns is a machined 7075-T6 barrel shroud, which dubs as the frontal mounting point for the modular sighting system. A slot at the top front of the barrel shroud houses the front post, while a similar slot at the top rear of the receiver

houses the aperture rear sight. Both are fixed, with three simple white dots for visibility, and both can be replaced with a full-length, machined aluminum MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny rail for optics that snaps on to the slots and can be pivoted in place or removed in the same way. The rail comes issued with a set of ghost ring sights, complete with high-visibility fiber-optic inserts, manufactured by LPA of Italy.

The FABARM STF/12 shotguns are available in full Cerakote black or flat dark earth finish versions, with polymer components matching the finish of the metal surfaces. Some variants are available on the Italian market in a "Viper" setup, with a Cerakote olive drab green finish on all outer metal surfaces, and a True Timber Western Viper digital camo finish on the polymer furniture.

In terms of furniture, aside from the factory-issued forend and pistol grip, the FABARM STF/12 is available with a fixed polymer stock, a side-folding stock, or a six-position telescopic stock with adjustable cheek riser. Barrels and stocks can be easily swapped upon field-stripping the shotgun, allowing shooters to configure their STF/12 depending on their preferences or current tactical needs. Components like the barrels,





**The standard buttstock of the STF/12 is manufactured out of polymer, with a Soft Touch finish, and folds to the right; the profile of the stock is such that the ejection window is still kept clear.**



**The STF/12 stock can be removed and replaced with various stock assemblies —telescopic, or fixed—or alternatively the gun can be kept in a pistol grip only configuration.**



**A nut can be installed on the right side of the receiver to keep the stock locked in the folded position, for easier transportation or storage.**



**The collapsible stock assembly of the FABARM STF/12; the shim that integrates the sling swivel can be removed and replaced with one with a sling swivel in the 12 o'clock position.**

stocks, and others such as shims for the pistol grip integrating a sling swivel, are available separately.

The STF/12 comes from factory in four basic variants: the STF/12 Short, with a vertical pistol grip, no buttstock, and an 11-inch barrel, the STF/12 Compact, with a 14-inch barrel and a side-folding polymer buttstock, the STF/12 Telescopic with a 16-inch barrel and the aforementioned six-position collapsible stock with cheek riser, and the STF/12 Pistol Grip, which despite its name comes with a fixed polymer buttstock to go along with the vertical grip and with a 20-inch barrel. Also available are 18-inch and 22-inch barrel configurations for the STF/12 Telescopic and STF/12 Pistol Grip. Additionally, all the variants are available in the “Initial” setup, which sacrifice some

features to remain more on the affordable side; the Short, Compact, Telescopic, and Pistol Grip Initial models do without the Breacher muzzle device and the pivoting top Picatinny rail from factory.

### Worth the Squeeze?

As of today, the FABARM STF/12 is available in the US in the variants known in Europe as the “Pistol Grip” and “Pistol Grip Initial” respectively; this means they come with a fixed stock polymer stock, a vertical pistol grip, a 5+1 capacity, and an 18-inch barrel, with or without the top Picatinny rail and Breacher brake; 20- and 22-inch barrels are available, as well as black or FDE finish options. The starting price is \$1,425. All other variants, due to their barrel length, are subject to NFA provisions and according to FABARM, ten years after their first launch, ATF still refuses to allow their import.

The question shooters in the US will ask themselves is of course, “*Is this Italian shotgun worth almost fifteen hundred bucks?*”, and the answer is... yes. Probably. It may be the author’s Italian national pride speaking once again, but this needs to be understood: if you run a pump-action shotgun for “serious” purposes, such as high-level shooting competitions or tactical applications, the FABARM STF/12 has everything you need right out of the box with no custom work necessary.

Written word and images cannot replace direct personal experience, nor can properly convey the feelings of the



**◀ The FABARM STF/12 pump-action shotgun comes with a deep-drilled Tribore HP barrel, compatible with a wide array of chokes or with a Breacher-style steel muzzle brake.**



**The STF/12’s forend comes with an accessory Picatinny rail at 9 o’clock; additional rails can be installed at 3 and 9 o’clock.**



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FABARM STF/12 SHOTGUN



◀ The STF/12 is an incredibly smooth firearm to run, with all sorts of ammunition, and is certified to withstand pressure levels up to, and exceeding, 1,630 Bar of pressure.



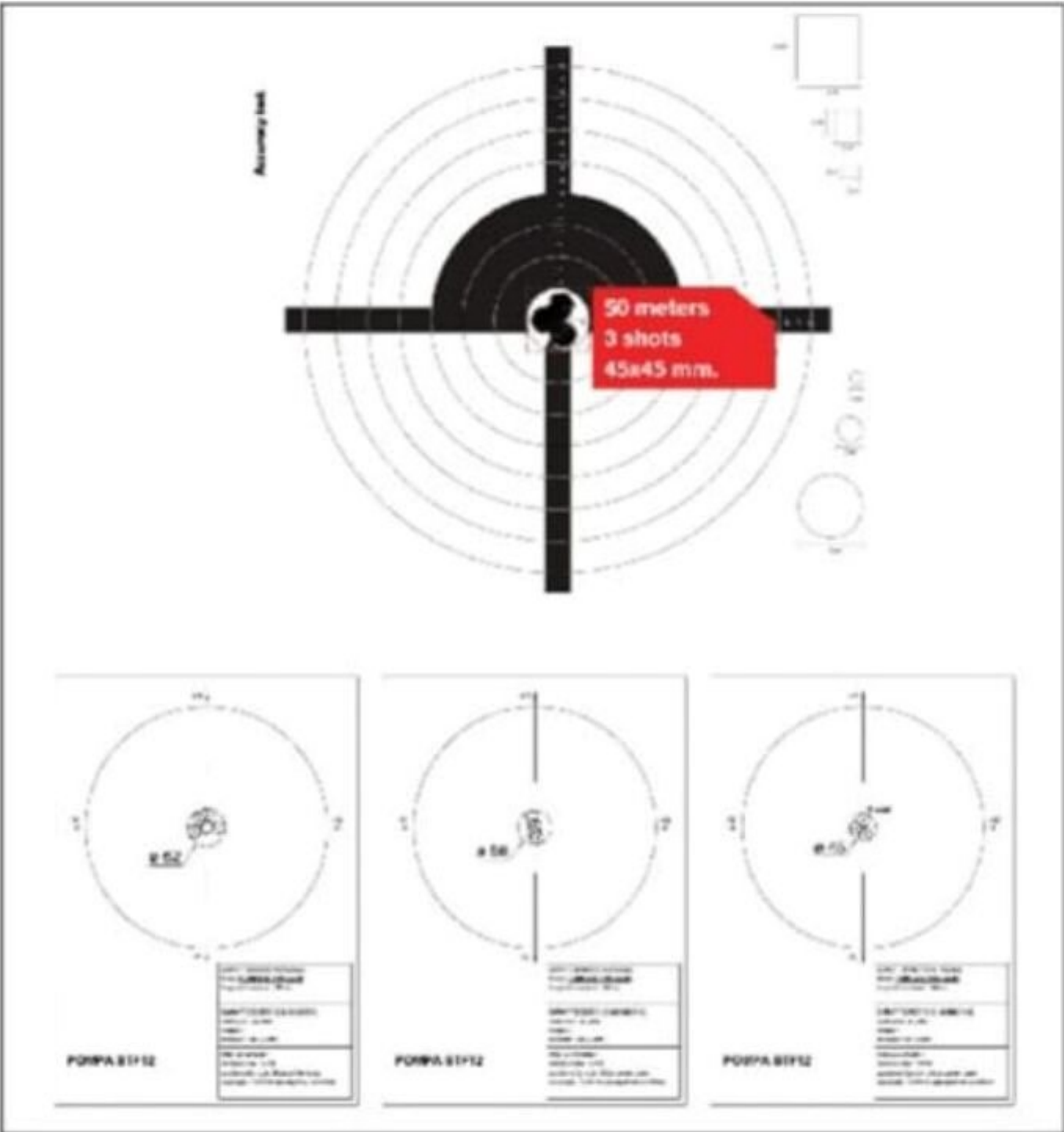
author from the numerous times he had a chance to run an STF/12. A pricey but still common encounter in Italy available in all barrel lengths (readers who perused through our article about Italian gun laws from Vol.77, Issue 3, February 2023, will remember that Italy has a different way to distinguish a handgun from a rifle or shotgun, and thus anything with a barrel under 301 mm, or 11.8", and an overall length under 601 mm, or 23.6", is a pistol regardless of the bore, working system, or the presence of a buttstock).

However, the FABARM STF/12 does run like it's on wheels, has the smoothest cycling witnessed by the author in any production pump-action tactical shotgun, and the accuracy is remarkable. The price markup is mainly tied to the manufacturing of the barrels—deep-boring is a significantly more expensive and complex method than the common hammer-forging by which by far the vast majority of shotgun barrels out there is made—and to the overall higher workmanship level, which translates into higher quality.

The high level of precision in the manufacturing of all components makes the STF/12 the world's most accurate shotgun at long ranges.

The FABARM STF/12 is not a shotgun for everybody, that's understandable; it is possibly the most niche product in its field, a gun for true professionals—not surprisingly it's part of the FABARM Professional product line—and for those who need, or want, the level of performance meant for true professionals, and are willing to pay for the relevant price *and* quality levels. The two things go hand-in-hand.

Or, you could stick to your "Turkinelli." Spoiler alert: those *may* (or may not) be good enough as test mules or as everyday general purpose, utility tools. But when push comes to shove, they're *not* the same thing as a FABARM STF/12. Not even close. **FM**



The factory accuracy test for the STF/12: the flagship FABARM shotgun is perfectly capable of less than two-inch groups at almost 55 yards.

| FABARM STF/12 SHOTGUN |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Type:                 | Pump-action shotgun                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Caliber:              | 12 gauge (2¾ in., 3 in.)                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Capacity:             | 5+1, 6+1, 7+1                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Barrel:               | Tribore HP barrels with inner HP Accuracy choke                                                                                                                                              |
| Overall Length:       | Starting at 21 in., depending on barrel and stock configuration                                                                                                                              |
| Weight:               | Starting at 7.5 lbs. (approx.), depending on barrel and stock configuration                                                                                                                  |
| Finish:               | Cerakote black, flat dark earth, or olive drab green on barrel, magazine tube and receiver; Soft Touch handguard, stock, and grip available in black, FDE, or True Timber Western Viper camo |
| Grips:                | Vertical, polymer                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Sights:               | LPA fiber optic front, LPA Ghost Ring rear, on quick-detach top MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny rail                                                                                                  |
| Barrel Length:        | 11 in. / 14 in. / 16 in. / 18 in. / 20 in. / 22 in.                                                                                                                                          |
| Trigger:              | FABARM Racing trigger, adjustable, with out-of-battery hammer intercept feature                                                                                                              |
| MSRP:                 | \$1,425.00 (FABARM STF/12 Black)<br>\$1,525.00 (FABARM STF/12 FDE)                                                                                                                           |
| Contact:              | (410) 901-1260,<br>FABARMUSA.com, FABARMPPro.com                                                                                                                                             |





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**“Military only” no more: in an unexpected turn of events, Italy legalizes .50 BMG as the National Proofing House authorizes the sale of the Victrix Armaments Corvo bolt-action long-range rifle.**

# ITALY LEGALIZES .50 BMG FOR CIVILIANS!

Italy Just Allowed Its First .50 BMG Rifle on the Civilian Market, and It’s a Beauty by Victrix!

**By Pierangelo Tendas**  
All photos by Victrix Armaments

**T**hose of you who’ve read our article about gun laws in Italy will be familiar with that Country’s system of classification—i.e. authorization to civilian sales—for firearms classified as “common,” “sporting” and “hunting.” (See *Gun laws and Gun Ownership in Italy*, *Firearms News*, February 2023, Issue 3, and *Stopping by a Gun Store in the Caput Mundi*, October 2023, Issue 19—both articles at [FirearmsNews.com](https://www.firearmsnews.com).) They’ll also be familiar with the fact that some calibers are, or were, still banned from civilian ownership in the country, one of those previously being 9mm Luger (9x19mm)—fully legalized in 2021. Previously, all firearms in 9mm had to be chambered for 9x21mm which was a non-military caliber.

Prohibition of .50 BMG for Italian shooters ended unexpectedly on September 9, 2024, when the Banco Nazionale



**Manufactured in Italy by Victrix Armaments, the Corvo bolt-action rifle weighs in at 29 lbs. and was previously available only to military and law enforcement in Italy.**

di Prova—the National Proofing House, which has authority on the classification of firearms—type-classified the first ever .50 BMG caliber rifle to be sold in the Country.





**The Corvo bolt-action rifle in its basic configuration: the Match-grade barrel is 27" long, button-rifled, and lapped for accuracy.**

**The Victrix Armaments Corvo with a few more accessories: a chassis rifle, the Corvo is a mean machine, meant for maximum performance on the long range.**

**Available in three colors, the Corvo rifle is also compatible with Victrix Armaments' own, dedicated suppressor.**

The rifle in question is the Corvo ("Crow"), a bolt-action long-range rifle manufactured in Italy by Victrix Armaments, one of Europe's best and finest manufacturers of long-range interdiction and precision shooting rifles for civilian, law enforcement, and military applications.

Established in 2015 as a brand of ROME (Rottigni Officine Meccaniche), and owned by the Beretta Group from 2016 to 2019, before returning into ROME's hands completely in 2020, Victrix Armaments ([VictrixArmaments.com/en/](http://VictrixArmaments.com/en/)) manufactures a broad range of precision rifles; the Corvo is the first .50 BMG rifle ever manufactured in Italy and has been available for export and MIL/LE sales for a couple of years now.

The Corvo is a chassis rifle, built around an AISI 420 steel action machined from solid billet and featuring an

AISI 420 steel 27-inch button-rifled, lapped and fluted barrel, equipped with a massive proprietary muzzle brake and compatible with a (likewise proprietary) sound suppressor. The action and the massive, fluted three-lugs bolt are entirely PVD-coated, and the trigger is a proprietary Victrix Armament adjustable model called the "Professional Plus" with a three-position safety and a factory pull setting of 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram approx.).

Feeding from a proprietary five-round polymer magazine, the Victrix Armament Corvo also features a machined hexagonal M-LOK handguard, a full-length top 45 MOA Picatinny rail for optics, a black polymer AR-15 compatible pistol grip, and a folding stock that's fully adjustable in height,



**The Corvo is the first .50 BMG bolt-action rifle to ever be manufactured in Italy. Other brands had previously offered .50 BMG rifles, but none were actually put in production.**



**The buttstock of the Victrix Armaments Corvo can be finely adjusted in length of pull and height and comes with a screw-on monopod for additional stability.**





**A close-up of the solid hinge for the folding stock: the Victrix Armaments Corvo will go from 46.2" to 55.9" in overall length, based on the position of the stock.**



**A series of accessories—such as the massive factory-issued three-port muzzle brake—are manufactured under the ROME brand for the Corvo and other rifles in the Victrix Armaments line.**



**The cheek riser of the Victrix Armaments Corvo dubs as a holder for three different hex tips, while the detachable buttpad can be used as a wrench, allowing the installation of accessories and any sort of adjustment on the field.**



**The Corvo comes issued from factory with accessories such as a detachable carrying handle and folding bipod; all are manufactured by the Victrix Armaments' parent company, ROME ("Rottigni Officine Meccaniche"), headquartered in the northern province of Bergamo.**

drift, and length of pull, and comes with an integrated rear monopod. The Chassis itself is Cerakoted in dark grey, medium flat brown or dark olive drab green.

Mostly hand-fitted and with a lot of hand-made components, the Corvo is a finely tuned, prime shooting machine, coming with a smorgasbord of ROME-manufactured accessories including a detachable carry handle, bipod, and scope mount, all in a dedicated transport case with two magazines and a dedicated sling.

The retail price for the first .50 BMG rifle to be made available to civilian customers in Italy is set at 13,183€, including VAT; that's just over \$14,500 at the current exchange rate, which puts the Victrix Corvo in a very niche position on the Italian civilian market—but then again, that's not a price level unheard of in the US for .50-caliber rifles.

The most important takeaway of this all, however, is that an important taboo has fallen in a country whose gun laws are largely more restrictive than America's; and with the National Proofing House authorizing the distribution of one rifle in .50 BMG, others will follow. Previously, rifles chambered in .50 BMG have been available on the Italian civilian market only in rechambered variants, for calibers such as .416 Barrett or .460 Steyr—arguably offering better long-range accuracy than .50 BMG, but still, something short of the originals.

We don't know what caused the Proofing House to diverge from a previously firm stance on the matter—and we may never know, as the National Proofing House isn't legally required to justify their decisions unless an appeal against them is made in a court of law.



**Similar in design to the AICS (Accuracy International Chassis System) magazines, the Victrix Armaments' proprietary single-stack polymer magazine used by the Corvo rifle holds up to five rounds of .50 BMG ammunition.**

We can however speculate that the Proofing House may have come to the conclusion that commercially available .50 BMG loads do not match the NATO specs for 12.7x99mm (indeed they don't, they're often much better), and that reloads by definition cannot match those specs either, thus not falling under the definition of "military ammunition" (read: military loads) prohibited by Italian law.

Outside of the long-overdue legalization of 9mm Luger, the Italian civilian market has seen the legalization of many previously "verboten" calibers in the past few years, most notably 5.7x28mm and, just this year, 4.6x30mm (in case you're wondering, no, Italy doesn't have a civilian MP7: the gun in question is the CMMG Banshee Mk4 pistol).

And if .50 BMG is legalized in a country like Italy, there's hope for those places whose gun laws have taken a turn for the worse in the past few years. Jurisdictions where .50 BMG was previously legal and is now banned (think Canada and the UK, not to mention California and New York state), may want to reconsider their choices; after all nobody has yet rushed to buy 15k rifles to "shoot down planes," and we doubt they're going start now.

More generally, a lot of countries in Europe are slowly, but gradually, taking a different approach, as both the general population and the authorities come to the realization that legally-owned, legally-circulating firearms are the wrong target when criminals can equip themselves with full-automatic rifles and even rocket launchers on a rich black market fueled by literally every conflict fought everywhere in the last seventy years.

Is Italy, slowly, winning? Time will tell, but being optimistic isn't a crime yet. **TN**



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With a non-slip grip and paying attention, getting multiple empties in the air is not hard. And for shooting bowling pins, iron sights are a must-have item in some events.

# SMITH & WESSON'S By Patrick Sweeney M&P 2.0 COMPETITOR PISTOL

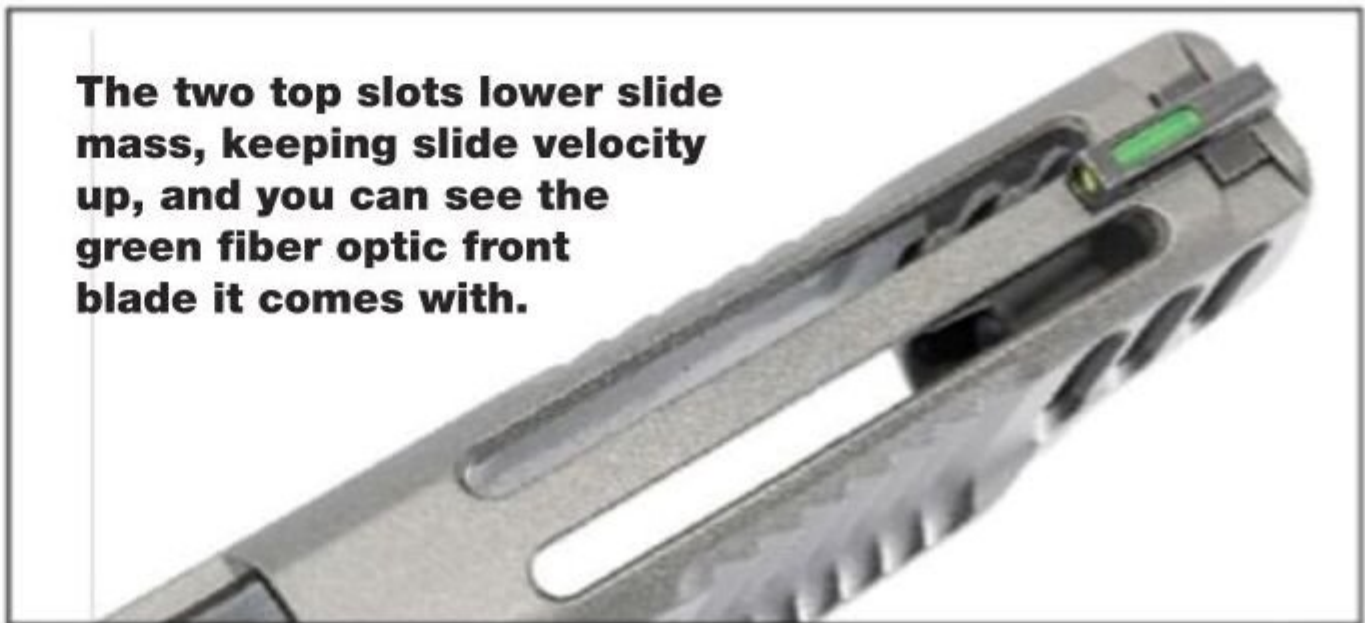
Win the Match, Win the Fight!

**T**he S&W Performance Center has a pistol that will knock your socks off. I traveled down to Florida back in the winter to see it when it was new, and it was, and is, da bomb. The M&P 2.0 Competitor is a metal-framed

9mm M&P with a five-inch barrel, a sweet trigger, and 17-round magazines. It is of course given front and rear cocking serrations, and an optics plate on top, because them's the things these days, and good ones at that.



You can see the forward cocking serrations and the lightening slot on the slide nose, to keep the slide weight in the normal range.

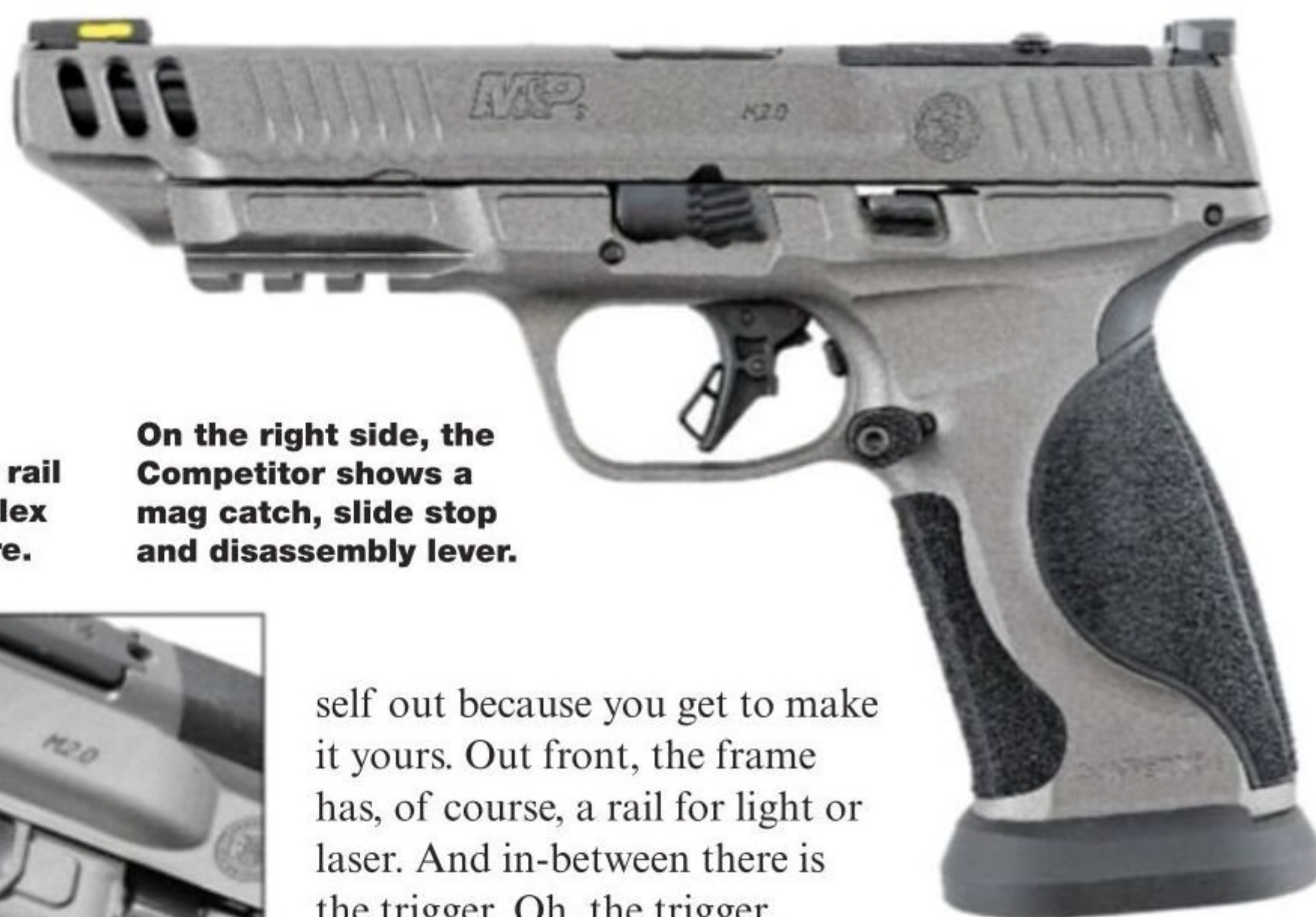


The two top slots lower slide mass, keeping slide velocity up, and you can see the green fiber optic front blade it comes with.





**With a machined-metal frame, the accessory rail is a solid place to mount a light or laser. No flex or accessory bounce to throw off feeding here.**



**On the right side, the Competitor shows a mag catch, slide stop and disassembly lever.**



**The mag button is raised, the front strap has a non-slip panel, and the frame is machined to be comfortable in the hand.**



**The magazine release button is raised, but it is also reversible so you can swap it to the other side if that's the way you roll.**

self out because you get to make it yours. Out front, the frame has, of course, a rail for light or laser. And in-between there is the trigger. Oh, the trigger.

The problem with a lot of polymer-framed pistols is that the frame squishes. This means that as you press the trigger back, the pin it pivots on allows movement because the frame is flexing, and that movement has to be allowed for in the trigger travel and striker release engagement surfaces. The M&P uses an internal chassis that the entire firing system rides in, so no squish. And now that it is in a metal frame, even the chassis itself can't "float" in the polymer shell. So the trigger is clean, crisp and easy to use. What we'd expect from the Performance Center, or course, but still, very nice.

The metal frame is machined to be as ergonomic as possible, with clearances for your trigger finger, regardless of which hand you are using. In addition to the backstrap, there's a textured panel on the frontstrap that adds to the non-slip grip design. There is an accessory rail out on the dustcover, so if you need a light or laser, you've got a place

Now, a five-inch barrel calls for some slide mods, because the M&P doesn't usually come with a slide that long. So, S&W stretched the slide to match the barrel, but then also cut side slots in it at the muzzle, (and along the top) to keep the weight down and the slide as a result has much the same speed and inertia as a standard slide does. That's good for reliability, and the longer slide has the front sight mounted at the end, for a longer sight radius. All that is nice, but the frame is where the real magic happens. S&W machines the frame out of aluminum, and in so doing they take extra liberties in sculpting it to fit your hand and make it comfortable to shoot.

The front strap is raised, for a higher grip. The sides of the frame, in line with the trigger, are sculpted down so your finger has less of a chance to rub on the frame. This is especially important to those with smaller hands. Smaller-hand shooters can, of course, swap the backstrap for a different one, because the Competitor uses the same M&P backstraps as the rest of the line. Use the ones provided, buy more, modify them your heart's content, knock your-



**The Competitor disassembles like any other S&W M&P, easy and simple.**





**The S&W Performance Center Competitor, and you can see the ambi slide stop above and behind the trigger.**

to park it. The takedown lever, directly above the trigger is set into its own recess, so it won't be inadvertently moved, and the slide stop lever has a small protective fence around it. The slide stop lever is ambi, present on both sides. The magazine release button is reversible, for left-handed use. The tang of the Competitor is as high as S&W can make it and still provide solid support to the chassis retaining pin, so you can really choke up on the frame.

Down at the bottom of the frame, the mag well opening is plenty generous, but that wasn't enough for the Performance Center. So, they installed a mag well funnel, plenty big but not one of the baker's-funnel-sized ones you'll sometimes see on the range. The Competitor mag funnel is large enough to be eminently useful, but not so large as to be a problem in concealed carry, with the right clothing choices.

Note the slide length. The slide and barrel are lengthened for a couple of reasons. Well, three, really. One, it changes the balance slightly, giving the Competitor a slightly nose-out balance. For those using iron sights, it permits a longer sight radius, which improves useful accuracy, and the longer barrel makes for softer felt recoil. Oh, not due



**Competition shooters will tune their loads to minimize recoil, and a five-inch barrel helps because you need less powder.**

**The magazine well funnel is large but not huge. If you find it to be too large for concealed carry, you can remove it.**



**The Shield RMSx rides low enough that you can still use the iron sights through the optics viewport.**



entirely to the extra weight, but the need for a power factor. The power factor you have to deliver is measured by the bullets velocity and weight, but the recoil you feel adds to that the weight of the powder, jetting out of the muzzle. At something on the order of 5,000 fps, powder weight adds up. A longer barrel lets you get the same measured PF with less powder. Every tenth of a grain-weight in powder you don't need is a 0.5 PF decrease in felt recoil. At the top, every detail matters, and the top shooters tune their load to their pistols.

Competitors don't want sluggish cycling of their pistols, so that's why the Performance Center went and carved on the Competitor. The three slots at an angle on the slide nose and the long slots on either side of the centerline on tap are all there to bring the mass of the Competitor slide down to where it would be on a regular M&P, and keep the slide velocity up. This also ensures it has the same feeding dynamics and timing as the regular M&P, which has proven to be ultra-reliable.

On top of the slide, S&W has machined an optics mounting platform, and bolted on a filler plate in case you don't need or want optics. Installation is simple and obvious: unbolt the plate, select the appropriate adapter plate, match up slide, plate and optic, and bolt things on. Oh, don't forget the Loctite.

As far as weight is concerned, you might think that going back to a metal frame would make the Competitor a pig. Au contraire. At a listed weight of 29 ounces (sans optics) the Competitor is a third of an inch shorter than





The test M&P 2.0 PC Competitor, down in Florida where I first had a chance to shoot it.

a G34, and three ounces heavier. And with that superior trigger, I just have to add.

At the range event in Florida, the organizers gave us the expected range time where we got to flog the test firearms as much as we could. (Sometimes being a gun writer is a hard life, I'll admit.) Then came the competition. We gun writers took turns shooting through the short course under the watchful eye of Jerry Miculek, who offered advice, and who had been helping us with running the guns during the afternoon session. Once we had run the course, Jerry turned to me, *"Patrick, I noticed you took your time on that first plate."* I hadn't taken more than a fraction more than my usual, but Jerry noticed. *"Jerry, I wanted to check that the dot was dead-on, so I made sure I buried the dot dead-center on the plate. It is."* *"I thought so. Good, I'll use yours then to run the stage."* Which he promptly did, and thrashed our times so badly it would have been embarrassing, were Jerry not just the nicest guy on the planet.



At the end of the day the organizers ran us gun writers through a short stage of steel targets, to get a feel for the Competitor. When we were finished Jerry Miculek showed us how it was really done.



The M&P 2.0 PC Competitor has the M&P trigger system, but one tuned and improved by the Performance Center.



The cover plate comes off, and it is easy to mount a red dot, like this Shield.

| OPTICAL SIGHT MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED<br>For M&P® M2.0™ Metal Frame Pistols |                                                                                |                                           |               | OPTICAL SIGHT MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED<br>For M&P® M2.0™ Metal Frame Pistols                                                                                                                                                                              |               |                             |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| M&P® M2.0™ Metal Frame mounting plate and screw matrix                              |                                                                                |                                           |               | to match parts to your specific optical sight                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |               |                             |                                                     |
| Mounting Plate TYPE #                                                               | # marked on the plate                                                          | Use the #6-32 screws supplied by Trijicon | SCREEN TYPE A | SCREEN TYPE B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SCREEN TYPE C | SCREEN TYPE D               | SCREEN TYPE E                                       |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #1                                                                  | TRIJICON® RMR                             |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |                             |                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #2                                                                  |                                           |               | LOUPPEL® DELTA POINT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |               | 1 POINT™ COMMON TRAIL™ 1000 |                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #3                                                                  |                                           |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | DELTA™        |                             |                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #4                                                                  |                                           | C-MORE™ S&S   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |                             |                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #5                                                                  |                                           |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | WIGHT™ RMR    |                             |                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #6<br>screws only with plate                                        |                                           |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |                             | LOUPPEL® DELTA POINT PRO<br>See on back plates ONLY |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #6A<br>screws only with plate<br>available in black, silver or gold |                                           |               | LOUPPEL® DELTA POINT PRO - Use on 40 S&S. 10mm hole and 40 hole. Use the screws from the plate (not cover plate shown here) to secure Plate-6A to the slide. Then use the #6-32 screws supplied by Loupetel to secure the DELTA POINT optic to the plate itself. |               |                             |                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Plate Type #7                                                                  |                                           |               | WIGHT™ S&S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |               |                             |                                                     |

Consult the included chart to see which adapter you need to use to mount the red-dot optic of your choice.





The Competitor would be a first-rate choice for use on bowling pins, now that many of the events are set up for 9mm power levels.



The 9mm doesn't have a lot of recoil any way but shoot it through a Competitor and recoil is even less.



Accuracy like this is normal from the Competitor.

| S&W M&P 2.0 PERFORMANCE CENTER COMPETITOR PISTOL CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA |                     |                |    |      |                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----|------|-----------------------------|
| Ammunition                                                                     | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | Es | sD   | Accuracy (in.) (Avg., Best) |
| Fiocchi FMJ                                                                    | 115                 | 1,212          | 37 | 13.8 | 1.9 / 1.7                   |
| Barnaul FMJ                                                                    | 115                 | 1,265          | 29 | 12.9 | 2.2 / 2                     |
| Am Eagle FMJ-FP Subsonic                                                       | 124                 | 1,028          | 15 | 5.2  | 1.9 / 1.7                   |
| Hornady XTP Subsonic                                                           | 147                 | 989            | 12 | 4.3  | 1.8 / 1.6                   |

Accuracy results are the average of four, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

When I got home, I asked for not just any sample gun, but I asked specifically for the sample gun I had used in the range time, just because I could. They tracked it down to wherever it had gotten to, and sent it. Each Competitor comes in a large lockable storage case, with four 17-round magazines. The baseplates are extended so as to reach past the magazine well funnel, but they are not extended-capacity magazine extensions. For greater capacity you'll have to go to Taylor Freelance, where a "140mm" extension will net you +6 rounds of 9mm. That's kosher in USPSA Limited Division. If you just want the maximum, then you get a "170mm" extension, and that TF extension nets you +10 rounds of 9mm ammo. 27+1 capacity? Oh yes.

The Competitor when we shot them down in Florida had Trijicon RMR red dots mounted on them. All my

RMRs are currently tied up in other projects, so I grabbed a Shield RMSx off the shelf and mounted it on the Competitor. There were no malfunctions, of course, and accuracy was the expected superb.

It is called the Competitor, but this would make a great EDC pistol. If you need to make it a tad less bulky, you can take off the mag funnel and swap the baseplates for standard ones. You'll still have 17+1 rounds on the pistol, but less bulk to conceal. Then pack another magazine (or two) with the TF 140mm extensions, and you'll have 23 rounds in each of those as back up.

In USPSA competition, as a Limited Division, or a Carry Optic, you would be well-equipped with the Competitor. You would not be giving up anything in the trigger department to anyone else and you'd have a marked



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### M1943 SPANISH MAIN BATTLE RIFLES

FFL or C&R required



Good condition. Only \$243.00

A finely crafted Spanish 8mm short rifle following the pattern of the original k98 German short rifle. The last rifle for Spain to be made in the old ways. Although, giving way to a new era these hardy and accurate rifles did their job superbly. Manufactured from famously superior Spanish steel and certainly able to take a lickin' and keep on a tickin'. Hand select add \$20.00.

### 1908 BRAZILIAN LONG RIFLES



FFL or C&R required

The Brazilians out-did themselves with this well thought out rifle. A warrior of the Amazon. Good condition. Only \$285.00, hand select add \$20.00.

### ITALIAN ARTILLERY CARBINES

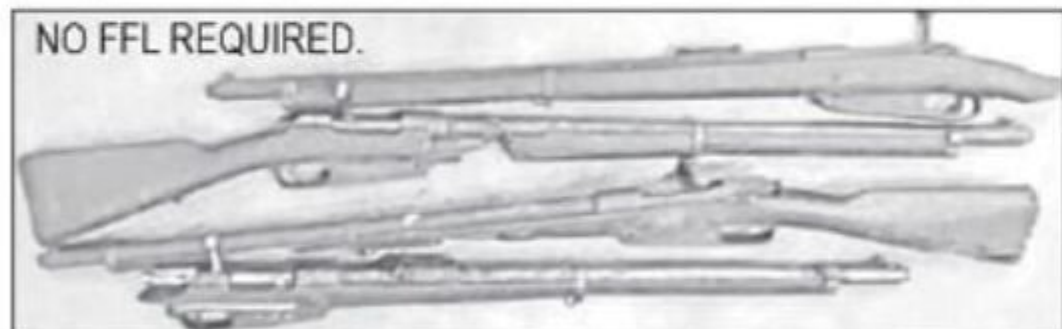


FFL or C&R required

Flat shooting super accurate 6.5mm artillery carbine with folding bayonet, manufactured with typical Italian style and finesse. Good bores and overall great condition. Only \$223.00. Hand select add \$20.00, leather sling \$9.00, leather ammo pouch \$15.00, leather bandolier/belt 28.00.

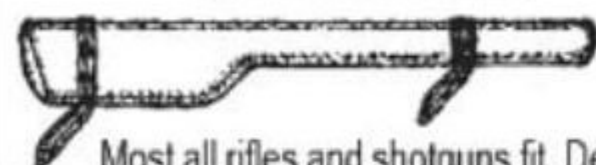
### 1888 GERMAN COMMISSION RIFLE

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### LEATHER RIFLE SCABBARDS



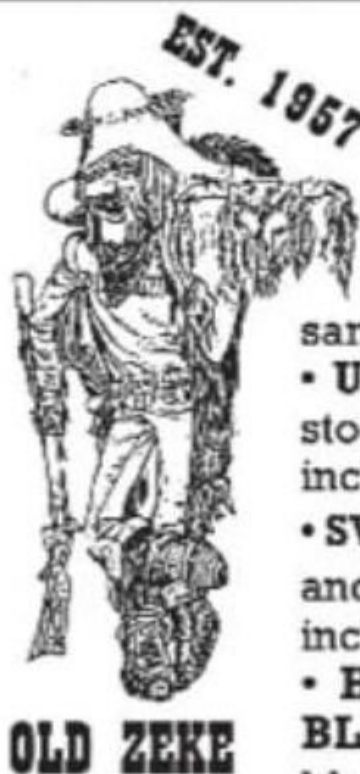
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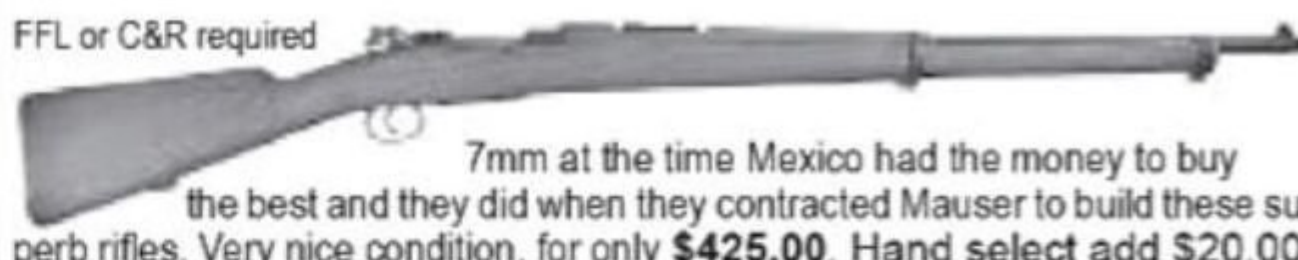


OLD ZEKE

AS IS M43 & 1916 SPANISH RIFLES broken/missing parts \$49.88.

### 1910 MEXICAN MAUSER RIFLES

FFL or C&R required



7mm at the time Mexico had the money to buy the best and they did when they contracted Mauser to build these superb rifles. Very nice condition, for only \$425.00. Hand select add \$20.00.

### BRITISH NO1 MKIII SMLE 303 CAL RIFLE

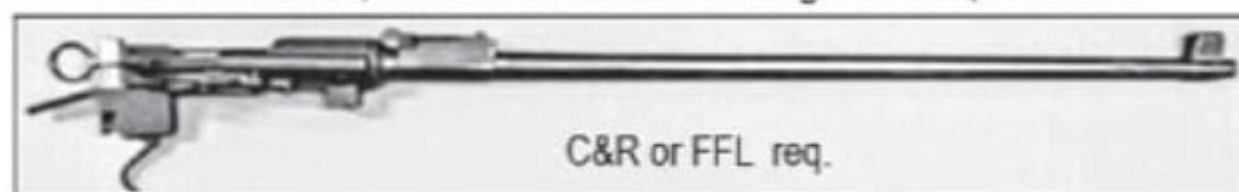


FFL or C&R required

Early example of one of the finest main battle weapons ever put into service. In use with the British Empire for decades and still as good as it ever was. Very good, battle ready condition. Yours only \$392.50. Hand select add \$20.00, Original dated sling \$19.95.

### SWISS K31 BARREL RECEIVER/ACTION

Great condition, nice bores all function and go "click". \$109.88.



C&R or FFL req.

FFL or C&R required.

### BRITISH No 4 MK 1 RIFLES



British No 4 MK1 rifles, greasy might be missing parts and or need repair, but can be fixed up. We just don't have the time. Only \$188.50. No accessories included.

### WW2 RUSSIAN 91/30 RIFLES

FFL or C&R required



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Good to very good.

Ole Zeke found a long forgotten warehouse in the Ukrainian countryside with these Russian rifles that have not been refinished and likely untouched since WW2. Hand select add \$20.00, sling and cleaning rod add \$31.00.

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# HOLSTERS, BLACKHAWK STYLE

With the Competitor we got to test, we were each issued a Blackhawk T-Series level 2 holster and duty belt. The T-Series is a level 2 retention holster than can be assembled on a variety of mounting systems. We were issued the duty rig thigh setup, and it was comfortable and quick. However, you can just as easily use a belt loop mount or a paddle setup on it. It has both a friction retention which is adjustable, and a thumb release to make it more difficult for anyone



◀ The Blackhawk T-Series is a level 2 security holster, and it can be worn several ways. This is the duty belt thigh rig arrangement.

▼ The Competitor, because of its five-inch barrel, sticks out of the Blackhawk T-Series just a smidge. Not enough to be a problem, however.



attempting a pistol snatch. The T-Series are injection molded, and the interior has a lining that reduces friction and also reduces the usual raspy “slick-snick” noise of drawing from a rigid polymer holster down to a soft shush.

All made in the USA. So there's no chinesium-grade plastic or hardware involved. The open top makes the T-Series faster than a level 3 retention holster and is designed to clear a mounted red-dot optic, so you can, dressing properly, have a fast holster and more than just friction retention in your concealed carry EDC ensemble.

And while the Competitor pokes just a smidge out of the bottom end of the T-Series, it isn't enough to be a problem, and your standard M&P fits just fine. **TJ**



The Competitor comes in a large hard case with all the extras plus four magazines. Woo-hoo!

advantage over a lot of other competitors. Magazines are easy to source, they are sturdy, reliable and you already start with four of them. And, as a pistol for bowling pin shooting, this is a cool one. With so many of the pin events going over to minor pin sets, the Competitor would be a useful tool in two of the main events and one of the optionals. One pistol for three events, swapping a red-dot optic in and out is just being efficient.

And the best part? You get all this for a list price of \$999. A tuned carry gun you can compete with, with a nice trigger and it comes with four hi-cap magazines? Beat that deal, I dare you. **TJ**

| SPECIFICATIONS S&W M&P 2.0 PERFORMANCE CENTER COMPETITOR PISTOL |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Type:                                                           | Striker-fired semi-automatic       |
| Caliber:                                                        | 9mm                                |
| Capacity:                                                       | 17+1 rounds                        |
| Barrel:                                                         | 5 in.                              |
| Overall Length:                                                 | 8.25 in.                           |
| Weight:                                                         | 29 oz.                             |
| Finish:                                                         | Melonited steel, anodized aluminum |
| Grips:                                                          | n/a                                |
| Sights:                                                         | Fixed rear, fiber optic front      |
| Trigger:                                                        | 4 lbs. 4 oz.                       |
| MSRP:                                                           | \$999                              |
| Contact:                                                        | Smith-Wesson.com, (800) 331-0852   |

| SOURCES                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Federal Ammunition, FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100 |
| Barnaul, BarnaulAmmo.com (937) 454-0363                |
| Blackhawk, Blackhawk.com                               |
| Fiocchi Ammunition, FiocchiUSA.com, (417) 725-4118     |
| Hornady Ammunition, Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220        |
| Taylor Freelance Accessories, TaylorFreelance.com      |



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# SPUTNIK, THE COLD WAR, AND INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING

Dwight Eisenhower Created the Army Marksmanship Unit with One Mission in Mind, Beat the Russians!

By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor

**M**y sister, daughter and I were recently having lunch in Amanda's Bakery & Bistro (their pie is to die for) in downtown Abilene, Kansas when I took note of an "I like Ike" sign. These are often seen in Abilene as it's the boyhood home of Dwight D. Eisenhower and home to his presidential library and museum. You have to cross the railroad tracks when heading from downtown to the small, humble home where America's 34th President was raised. The museum is a must-see for any history buff as it covers not only his life, military and wartime service but also World War II, the Cold War, Space Race and threat of nuclear war.

Eisenhower was president during a difficult, but transformative, time in this nation's history when the East and West squared off toe-to-toe. The old Colonial powers, like England and France, saw their empires throw off the yoke of oppression and so began to crumble and fall by the wayside. Much of Europe lay in ruins and needed

rebuilding. The United States though had entered World War II with a small, poorly equipped peacetime army, but emerged as an atomic superpower, with unrivaled manufacturing capability.

In the East, a familiar old threat once again reared its ugly head, Stalin's Soviet Union and its vast Red Army. The Soviet Union had long threatened its small independent neighbors. From May to September 16th 1939 the Red Army thrashed Imperial Japan taking land from Manchuria. On September 17th they invaded and annexed a huge part of Poland. Two months later, the Red Army invaded Finland. Next, the Soviets turned their sights on the small independent Baltic States. On June 15th 1940, the Soviets invaded and annexed Lithuania and the following day invaded and annexed Latvia and Estonia. The Presidents of Estonia and Latvia both died as prisoners in Siberia. However, the Red Army wasn't





**A must visit for any World War I, World War II and Cold War history buff is President Dwight D. Eisenhower's museum in Abilene, Kansas. (David M. Fortier)**



**A look inside President Dwight D. Eisenhower's museum which includes an impressive collection of items from his time in service as well small arms. (David M. Fortier)**

done yet. On July 28th 1940 they began seizing and annexing Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina in Romania.

Soviet aggression came to a temporary halt when Germany invaded the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, driving the Communists from these conquered territories. Soon though, the Germans found themselves facing overwhelming numbers with their backs against the wall. By May 1945, Berlin was a smoking ruin and Eastern Europe was firmly under the Communist's yoke. Communist puppet states were established in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. Soon, the Soviets began to look to see who else they might subjugate.

In the "Three Worlds" concept, the First World consisted of those countries aligned with the United States and the Western Bloc. The Second World consisted of those countries aligned with the Soviet Union and their Eastern Bloc. The Third World consisted of the non-aligned countries, which both the East and West desired in their camps. It's hard for the younger generations today to imagine just how fierce the competition between the Soviet Union and America became. There was a race building atomic and nuclear weapons, a race to space and a race for influence around the globe. These were intended to prove which system was better, Communism or Democracy.



**After leading the Allies to victory during World War II, President Eisenhower found the US facing a new threat in the form of the Soviet Union. (David M. Fortier)**



**While Americans were still in shock from Sputnik flying overhead, they were embarrassed again when the Soviets launched Sputnik II taking the first living creature, a dog named Laika, into orbit. (David M. Fortier)**





With the threat of nuclear war looming, every international contest, including international shooting, became a Cold War battleground. (David M. Fortier)



A monument to the gunsmiths of Izhevsk, with the famous arms factory’s bell tower in the background. (David M. Fortier)

This race between East and West even reached to competitive shooting. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a highly organized and well-supported Soviet team showed up to the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki with their game face on. To put this in perspective, no Russian shooting team had competed in the Olympics in 40 years. The Soviets had virtually never competed there. The last attending team had actually been a mix of Finns (Finland was then part of the Empire) and Russians when it competed in the 1912 games at Stockholm under the old Imperial banner of the Tsar.

Due to this, Western competitors didn’t know what to make of an unknown Soviet marksman named Anatoli Ivanovich Bogdanov as he went toe-to-toe with the best marksmen in the world in the 300-meter Free Rifle event. Here, competitors fired 40 shots prone, 40 shots kneeling and finally 40 shots offhand using iron sights, under a time limit, with 1,200 points possible for a perfect score. Switzerland’s Robert Bürchler was favored to win, but Bogdanov stood side-by-side with him racking up points with each shot until a crowd gathered behind them. The top American competitor posted a score of 1,104. Bürchler

shot an impressive 1,121, but it wasn’t good enough to beat Bogdanov who set a World Record with a score of 1,123, taking the Gold medal. Bogdanov’s teammate Lev Vainshtein brought home the Bronze for the Soviet Union with a score of 1,109.

German A. Salazar wrote the following in *Free Rifle Shooting in the Cold War Years: Sputnik, the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sierra 168*:

“Every international contest, most assuredly including international shooting, was a Cold War battleground. In the mid-1950s the Soviet Union entered the world of international shooting and almost immediately became a dominant force in International Shooting Union or Union Internationale de Tir (UIT) 300 Meter Free Rifle competition. The countries which had traditionally won the medals in 300 Meter shooting, Switzerland, Finland and Sweden, remained contenders, but the United States lagged well behind. The U.S. team’s triumphs of the 1920s and 1930s were but a distant memory.

While UIT matches included many events, the 300 Meter Free Rifle was without question the premier discipline and



Yevgeny Dragunov’s work on the MS-47 Modernized Sniper Rifle (bottom) aided his later work on his S-49 Spartacus competition rifle used in the 1952 Olympics. (Photo courtesy Mikhail Dragunov)





**Yevgeny Fedorovich Dragunov, seen here in 1971, is best known here in the US as the designer of the SVD-63, but he also designed competition rifles. (Photo courtesy Mikhail Dragunov)**

victory at 300 meters trumped all. As Sputnik whizzed overhead in 1957, everyone in the U.S. became keenly aware of the Soviet threat and the blow to national prestige. International shooting was one of many venues in which the East-West drama played out, accelerating the urgency and pace of development in training methods and equipment during that time period.”

While the Soviet Union strongly supported marksmanship training during the pre-war years, success in competition took on an entirely new meaning in the post-war years. They quickly became a dominant powerhouse in International competition in the 1950s. This was by design and part of a larger chess game taking place between East and West.

One of America’s top shooters of this period, Arthur C. Jackson, who would soon be working covertly for the CIA, had this to say about competing in 1954 at the 36th World Shooting Championships:

“Perhaps the most interesting if disturbing feature of the whole match was the performance of the well-trained and well-equipped Russian team. From the first practice sessions it became evident that this team was deadly serious and prepared to win. The team was composed of 50-odd men, 35 of whom were shooters, the rest being ‘team officials, interpreters, and coaches.’ Their team performance was sparked by the showing of perhaps the finest rifleman in the



**A rack of Soviet biathlon rifles on display at the Izhevsk museum. (David M. Fortier)**



**A Soviet 7.62x54mmR competition rifle from the 1960s shows a progression in thinking from the 1940s vintage S-49 Spartacus. (David M. Fortier)**

world, Anatoli Bogdanov, a short blond husky 28 year old shooter. Bogdanov won four rifle matches, three with new World’s Records; 50 meter kneeling, 50 meter three-position aggregate and 300 meter three-position aggregate.”

The Soviets took the Gold and Silver medals while Finland won the Bronze. US competitors came in 16–34th with Art Jackson leading the pack. So, how did the Soviets come from out of nowhere to rough handle the top countries in the sport? Jackson noted that the Soviet team was, “a fully government funded professional operation emphasizing continuous training. Soviet equipment was selected by team staff after rigorous testing. By contrast, U.S. shooters were individual enthusiasts with little opportunity to train together and share techniques and their equipment was based on individual preference more than on a systematic process of evaluation.”

As an example, Jackson shot a Winchester Model 70 target rifle which had been fitted with a Douglas match grade barrel. The barreled action was dropped into a home-made free rifle stock. The piece was chambered in .30-’06 and he fed it from a carefully guarded supply of pre-war Frankford





◀ The United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) was established 1 March 1956 at the direction of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and was tasked with beating the Soviets. (David M. Fortier)



An anti-communist poster from 1951 shows US sentiments during the Cold War. (David M. Fortier)

Arsenal Match ammunition. This was from a hand-picked lot noted for its accuracy which had served him well in previous matches. Basically, it was a competitive combination in previous years suddenly outclassed by new Soviet rifles and ammunition.

It may come as a shock to some readers, but the 7.62mm bolt-action competition rifle wielded so effectively by Bogdanov at the 1952 Olympics was designed by Yevgeny Fedorovich Dragunov, of SVD-63 sniper rifle fame. The Soviet Union had been invited to attend the 1948 Olympic Games in London but declined. Still recovering from World War II, and consolidating their hold on Eastern Europe, left the Soviet Union ill prepared to attend. In 1948, Soviet marksmen didn't even have a suitable 300 meter rifle to compete with.

If Stalin was going to send a team to the Olympics they had better bring home Gold medals. Not only that, but they would win those Gold medals with Soviet designed and built match rifles. So, an urgent request went out around the Soviet Union for the country's best gunsmiths and armorers to design suitable match rifles. Using the experience gained from his recent work on bolt-action sniper rifles, Dragunov began work on what would become the S-49 Spartacus competition rifle.

The heart of the rifle was a modified Mosin action forged in Izhevsk in 1948. To add rigidity to the design, it was a single-shot with a solid bottom in place of the opening normally milled for the magazine. To this was added a carefully hand-made barrel selected for its uniformity and accuracy with a 1 turn in 12.6-inch rifling twist. This was a medium heavy profile with a carefully cut crown. The barreled action was dropped into a competition stock carefully carved from a hand-selected wood blank. The bolt was carefully fitted and polished and the trigger was designed to give a crisp break. Testing revealed the addition of a barrel band noticeably reduced group size.

After rigorous testing, in 1949 Yevgeny Dragunov's rifle was selected to represent the Soviet Union. This provided the rifle team with enough time to begin practicing for the 1952 Olympics - it was the first long range competition rifle developed in the Soviet Union. Along with the rifle, high quality 7.62x54mmR match ammunition was specially crafted. Basically, the Soviet firearms and ammunition industry was organized and placed in support of their competitive shooters to prove their Communist system was superior to the West.

Beating the Soviets would be no simple task. They had put their best people in their firearms and ammunition industries to work. Izhevsk was home to huge small arms manufacturing facilities and firearm design bureaus while Novosibirsk had a sprawling ammunition factory. How would individual American marksmen compete against a nation state? They couldn't, so there needed to be another solution. The question facing President Dwight D. Eisenhower was, "What organization had the manpower, skills and resources to take on the Soviet Union in head-to-head international competition?"

President Eisenhower's answer was a logical one, the United States Army. Having spent his life serving his country, including two world wars, in the army, he had faith in its capabilities. If anyone was capable of beating the Soviet juggernaut it was the U.S. Army. So, the United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) was established on 1 March, 1956 at the direction of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to



The AMU has greatly evolved over the years; here is a look at some ammunition loading stations circa 2006. (David M. Fortier)



# Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

**PALM BEACH, FLORIDA** — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

## Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ (*pyrroloquinoline quinone*) — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel Q** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel Q** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel Q** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

## Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel Q** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel Q** every day."

You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

## Will Ultra Accel Q Multiply Your Energy?

**Ultra Accel Q** is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of



**MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION:** Top doctors are now recommending new **Ultra Accel Q** because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

new "energy factories" in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel Q** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

## How To Get Ultra Accel Q

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel Q** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel Q**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-800-998-3260** right now and use promo code **UAQFIRE225** to secure your own supply.

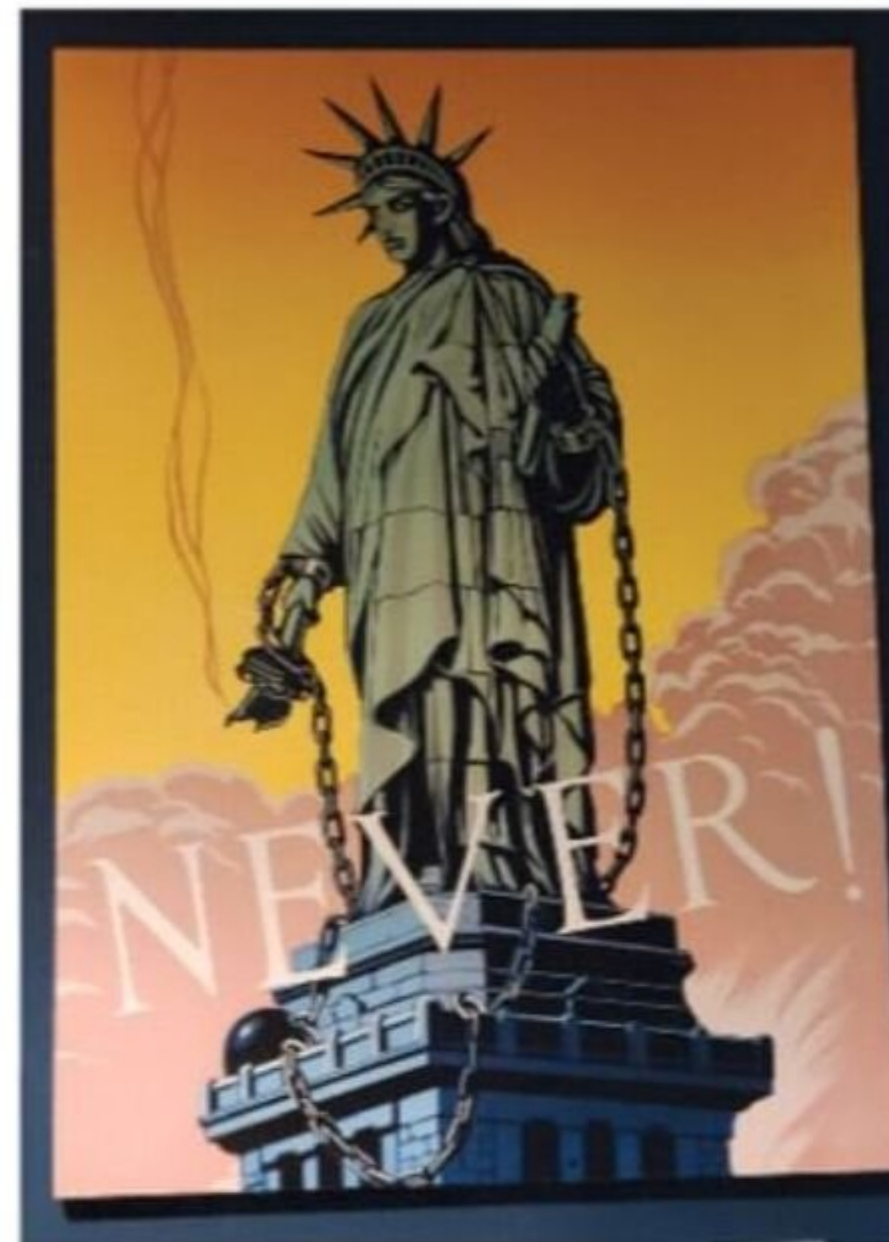
**Important:** Due to **Ultra Accel Q** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.





◀ In addition to competition, the AMU would become involved with aiding the development of new weapon systems like the U.S. Army's M21 sniper rifle. (David M. Fortier)

► A Cold War era poster on display at the Eisenhower museum shows the American determination to remain free in the face of the Communist threat. (David M. Fortier)



raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army. In reality, their task was to put an end to the Soviet's winning streak on the international stage, and to bring Gold home for the Red, White and Blue.

To successfully compete with the Soviet's well-organized shooting program, the best marksman would need to be found, the best gunsmiths would need to be put to work, and the bar would need to be raised on match grade ammunition and firearms. One small example of what was required can be seen in just the bullet fired from .30 caliber match rifles. The U.S. Army's 173-grain FMJ Match bullet, with its nine-degree boattail and gilding metal jacket, had performed very well at the 1925 National Matches. However, US industry could do better. So, Sierra Bullets was approached about developing a new projectile with the consistency and accuracy to beat anything the Soviets produced.

The engineers at Sierra responded by developing a .30 caliber 168-grain HPBT match bullet they called the MatchKing. Manufactured opposite of a traditional FMJ, the core was inserted from the nose and the all-important base was closed. This design would become legendary for its accuracy, and a favorite of American marksmen. Today, though, few realize it was originally developed for 300 meter competition, and to beat the Soviets.

Anatoli Bogdanov won 10 Gold medals and three Bronze medals in International competition for the Soviet Union in just four years. However, there would be no clean-sweeps by the Soviets at the 1960 Summer Olympics. The Soviets would take the most medals, seven total including two Gold, but the United States suddenly appeared, taking one Gold and one Silver. The race was on.

The USAMU quickly established itself as a world power in shooting, leading the U.S. to six Olympic Gold Medals and 59 individual and team championships between 1962 and 1978 in international competition to go with hundreds of

major service rifle and service pistol championships during that time. The Soviet dominance of international shooting suddenly came to an end. Since 1956, USAMU competitors have won hundreds of individual and team national titles, more than 40 world championships and 22 Olympic medals.

Despite fierce competition, the AMU has excelled to the point where they normally provide one-half to three-quarters of the members of the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team. To support their competitive shooters, the AMU has their own version of the "Skunk Works." In this secretive weapons shop, highly skilled gunsmiths, unhampered by bureaucracy, constantly strive to squeeze ever more accuracy from the rifles, pistols and shotguns they build.

Over the years, I have visited both the Russian city of Izhevsk and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning. I have talked to Russian designers, shot on their range, and wandered the Izhmash museum looking at all manner of successful competition guns and the medals they won. I have also toured the AMU's Skunk Works and competed at the U.S. Army's Small Arms Championship hosted by the AMU.

While some may not realize it, Russia today remains as aggressive towards its neighbors as the old Soviet Union. This can be seen in their invasion of Transnistria in Moldova, invasion of Chechnya, their invasion of Georgia, a host of smaller border conflicts, and the invasions of Ukraine in 2014 and 2022. They flood the West with political propaganda; threaten Finland, Poland, and the Baltic states all while playing the victim. There is a reason so many Eastern Europeans loath Russia. Some things never change, so study your history. President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the threat posed by the Soviet Union and in time the United States rose to the challenge. Hopefully, the common American blue collar worker will be able to sort through the propaganda and see Russia as the threat they are. **FM**



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[Cont. from page 10]

I am aware of a case in which a husband spoke with his wife regarding the family possibly relocating to a different state. The wife refused to entertain the conversation, and over the next year, her husband's periodic attempts to introduce the subject were used to establish the destruction of her "mental or emotional calm." A domestic violence restraining order was issued, and the husband lost his gun rights. This intentionality perverts the definition of "violence."

judge finds a person poses a credible threat and those where the order simply prohibits the use of or threats of violence against the protected party, with the distinction aptly argued by Shane O'Neal, Perez-Gallan's attorney. O'Neal offered a hypothetical yet real scenario in which individuals have voluntarily agreed to a protective order.

"The judge saying, 'You know, Mr. Perez, I'm thinking about issuing a protective order that prohibits you

"In order for a court to enter an injunction ... to prohibit the use of physical force sufficient to harm another person, it is a legal requirement that the court first determine that a real threat of danger or injury actually exists," Cagniart said.

This should be the legal requirement, but in practice, it's not. We already know the use of physical violence is not always the standard by which a protective order is issued, even though that is the only scenario

## **IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND INTELLECTUALLY DEVOID FOR A JUDGE TO ISSUE A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER WITHOUT AN EXPLICIT FINDING THAT THE PERSON POSES A CREDIBLE THREAT OF VIOLENCE.**

While the Fifth Circuit case does not deal with civil orders like those in family court, the same principle applies. It is irresponsible and intellectually devoid for a judge to issue a domestic violence restraining order without an explicit finding that the person poses a credible threat of violence.

The second issue is the gaping outright admission from the government that it wants to disarm citizens and doesn't care if there exists a finding to justify it.

The case at hand began in May 2022 when Litsson Antonio Perez-Gallan was stopped by border patrol agents at a checkpoint in Texas while carrying a firearm. Having a restraining order against him due to charges in Kentucky of assaulting his wife, he was indicted for violating the Lautenberg Amendment that prohibits individuals under domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms under federal law. A Texas federal judge, however, threw out the firearm case against Perez-Gallan, finding the Lautenberg Amendment in violation of the Second Amendment. That's when the government appealed to the Fifth Circuit.

The Lautenberg Amendment applies to protective orders where the

from using, attempting to use or threatening physical force against your spouse. Do you have a problem with that?' And, of course, someone in Mr. Perez's shoes is going to say, 'No, because all you're directing me to do is follow the law,'" O'Neal said.

While the appeal was pending in 2024, the Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Rahimi* that disarming accused abusers isn't facially unconstitutional, however, the ruling was limited to individuals who have been found to pose a "credible threat" of violence. Ultimately, the Supreme Court stated specifically that it would not rule on the constitutionality of disarming those who were prohibited from using threats or violence against a protected party, which is the kind of protective order Perez-Gallan was under. That issue is now before the Fifth Circuit panel.

During oral arguments on December 5, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Cagniart told judges that the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Rahimi* applies to all domestic violence protective orders, arguing that the issuance of a protective order inherently implies the finding of a credible threat, even if the judge doesn't make an explicit credible threat finding,

in which it makes sense other than being able to establish that credible threats of violence have been made. Further, how can Cagniart misrepresent the Supreme Court's ruling, treating it like both scenarios are the same when the Justices limited the ruling to only one form of protective order and specified that they were not ruling on the other?

The panel set to decide this case consists of Reagan-appointed U.S. Circuit Judge Jerry Smith, Clinton-appointed U.S. Circuit Judge Carl Stewart, and Trump-appointed U.S. Circuit Judge Stuart Duncan.

The absolute truth of the matter is that the Constitution gives no quarter to infringement of American gun rights, full stop. There is no if, and, or but in the Second Amendment, and compromising with the left is an exercise in fruitless futility. It may have felt like a reasonable concession to agree to disarm felons with The Gun Control Act of 1968, and if someone had warned what one concession might lead to, they would undoubtedly have been accused of conjuring a logical fallacy, yet so many years later, we have seen the mile taken from the inch, and we now know the slippery slope is very real.  ►►►





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# NEARLY 100 ANTI-SECOND AMENDMENT MEASURES PROPOSED TO TEXAS LEGISLATURE

By Darwin Nercesian

**W**ith the 2024 Presidential election in the rearview mirror and the country resoundingly rejecting four more years of any calamitous leftist administration, you may be tempted to breathe a sigh of relief, but not so fast. Rights are typically not taken away from the top down, but rather from the bottom up, which means it's time to pay close attention to legislatures across the country as they prepare to convene in January. A couple of weeks ago I wrote about leftist governors retaliating against the election results by threatening the Second Amendment rights of their constituents, however, it's not just the pinkos in the governor's mansions with their sights set on your liberty. Democratic legislators are seething for revenge against all of us who voted them out of power, and it doesn't matter what state you live in. Think I'm wrong? Just take a look at the great state of Texas and the nearly 100 anti-Second Amendment measures submitted by Democrat lawmakers in the first week of pre-filing.

Let's start the clown show highlight reel with the first batch of Democrat-sponsored measures aimed at undermining the Second Amendment. This set of rabidly seditious trash known as HB 234, HB 478, HB 655, and HB 893 are all centered on enacting extreme risk protection orders, or red-flag laws, which provide authorities access to confiscate an individual's firearms and strip them of their gun rights without the benefit of their Constitutional right to due process. You have to hand it to the Democrats. When they practice to violate civil liberties, they don't bother throwing only the Second Amendment to the fire, they go after it all, from property

rights to due process. They are like a defensive lineman who jumps offsides and decides while he's there to hit the quarterback then jump into the stands and slap his mother.

Chris McNutt, president of Texas Gun Rights, spoke of the seemingly unprecedented number of anti-gun bills and how the group is fighting back with pro-gun measures.

"We are on track for having the most gun control bills ever filed in the Texas legislature... They keep coming back with trying to pass red-flag gun confiscation laws... We're working with state representative, Briscoe Cain from the Houston area to ban, red-flag gun confiscation laws. That's House Bill 162, and that would pretty much neuter everything that the Cornyn-Biden compromise tried to do," says McNutt.

Red flag laws aren't the only Casu Marzu on the menu in Texas. HB 623 by State Representative Ron Reynolds out of Missouri City seeks to manipulate its way into banning semi-automatic firearms via a proposed assault weapons ban. HB 306, HB 313, HB 384, HB 579, and HB 1150 all take aim at disarming adults under 21. Texas Democrats are serving up HB 397, HB 682, HB 808, and HB 828 looking to impose universal background checks on private firearm transfers while creating a state gun registry via HB 461, HB 874, and HB 883, requiring firearm dealers to report gun buyers who purchase more than one firearm per transaction. Representative Terry Meza from Irving sponsors HB 226 targeting home gunsmithing and privately made firearms, and HB 481 banning standard capacity magazines. HB 834 comes by way of Representative Diego Bernal out of



*Shutterstock By Andrea Crisante*

San Antonio. His abomination would end open carry in the state. Not to be excluded, the Texas Senate has a bill on the floor to repeal campus carry.

Now the good news. Come on, you didn't think I'd leave you on such a down note, did you?

The good news is that these Democrats lack intelligence almost as much as integrity and patriotism. Let me explain. Democrats are rowing upstream as Republicans dominate the State House of Representatives 87 to 63 and the Texas Senate 19 to 12, making it almost impossible to force a vote. Even if they could, I'm more likely to start aging backward than they are to pass any of these bills. And let's not forget Texas Governor Greg Abbott. I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for him to take any of this legislation seriously, much less sign it into law.

A more likely scenario will see certain measures merged and others hit the trash bin due to redundancies, with any surviving foolishness destined to wilt on the vine. Accomplishing little more than wasting time and taxpayer resources, this obscure dance is an exercise in stupidity, arrogance, and virtue signaling. In other words, it's right up their alley.

There is an important lesson to learn here, however, about complacency. While terrible ideas get kicked around Austin and many other state legislatures across America, beware of the blueprint Democrats have for your state. Get involved and stay involved. This isn't the time to kick your feet up and watch for alerts on Truth Social. Remember when I said rights are typically not taken away from the top down, but rather from the bottom up? This is how it begins. **TM**



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## HOW TO BECOME A Rifleman:

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